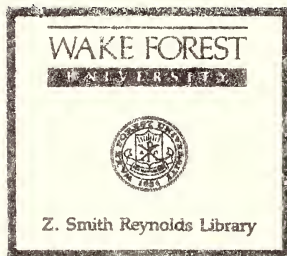


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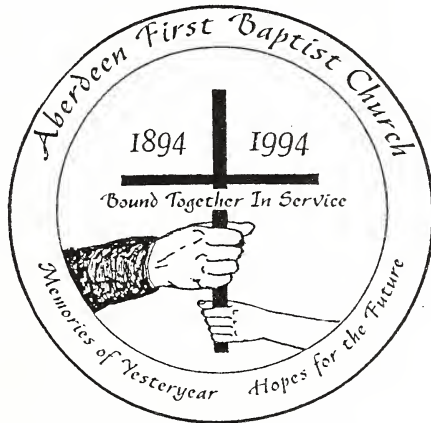
ABERDEEN FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH



A CENTENNIAL HISTORY

Aberdeen First Baptist Church

A Centennial History



1994

Acknowledgements

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Writers

Mary McCluskey
Marion Moss
Herman Russell
Charles Hinson

Logo Design

Robin Calcutt

Pictures

Don McCluskey

Layout

Tim McCluskey

Typists

Deborah Richardson
Judy McCluskey

Find Us Faithful

*We're pilgrims on the journey of the narrow road,
And those who've gone before us line the way,
Cheering on the faithful, encouraging the weary.
Their lives a stirring testament to God's sustaining grace.
Surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses,
Let us run the race not only for the prize,
but as those who've gone before us,
Let us leave to those behind us,
The heritage of faithfulness passed on through godly lives.*

*Oh, may all who come behind us find us faithful;
May the fire of our devotion light their way.
May the footprints we leave, lead them to believe,
And the lives we live, inspire them to obey.
Oh, may all who come behind us find us faithful.*

*After all our hopes and dreams have come and gone,
And our children sift through all we've left behind,
May the clues that they discover and the memories they uncover,
Become the light that leads them to the road we each must find.*

-Copied-

From January until May 1994, we celebrated our 100th birthday; we researched our history; we shared our memories; we rejoiced in our heritage.

Now we celebrate our present and our future, and we give thanks for our present Pastor, Rev. Charles Hinson. For twenty-three years Charles and Jane have ministered to us, teaching, inspiring, supporting, sharing our joys and sorrows.

In grateful appreciation for their faithful ministry, living and proclaiming the love of God, we dedicate this book to Charles and Jane.



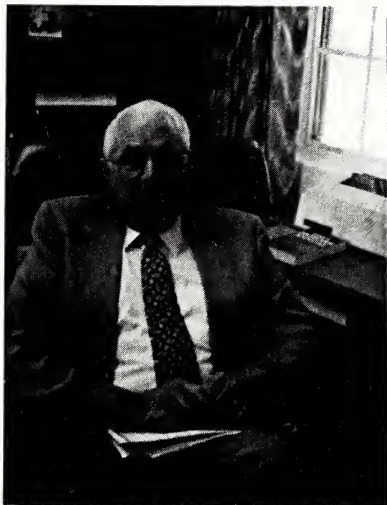
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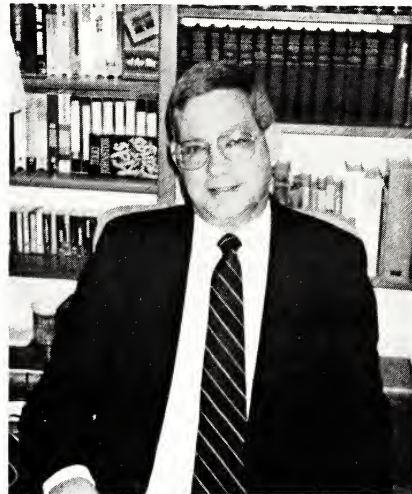
1982

The Hinson Family

Our Present Staff



Charles Hinson, Pastor



Gary Bodford, Associate Pastor



Deborah Richardson, Secretary &
Organist



Mark Parsons, Minister of Music



Livingston Johnson, First Pastor
1894-1895

Chapter 1

1894 - 1895

Fourth Sunday in May 1894 a Prebytery composed of Rev. C. Durham, & Johnson & C. V. Brooks met at Aberdeen for the purpose of organizing a Baptist Church. The following Brethren and Sisters presented letters and were duly constituted a Church. viz.

J. C. Holland, W. R. Hunter, Mr. H. Holland, A. H. Yates, J. S. Carral, H. H. Powell, C. A. Adams, E. W. Yates, J. W. Hagan, P. V. Holland, Ina V. Holland, Florence Yates, Louisa Randal, N. B. Hagan, Maggie Sharp, Olivia Drake, Ann B. Roberts, Dora Knight, P. A. Yates, Susan Ginter, Flora B. Hunter, M. M. McGee.

J. C. Holland & W. R. Hunter were elected deacons & J. W. Hagan Clerk & Treasurer. On motion Aberdeen Baptist Church was adopted as a name.

There being no further business Conference adjourned

C. Durham
mod

C. V. Brooks
Clerk

It was approximately one hundred years after the Highland Scots, migrating from Cumberland County, settled in the Bethesda Community (the area known now as Aberdeen). It was seventy years after Malcolm Blue converted the “pine barrons” into a prosperous farmstead and turpentine operation, and the Bethesda Community became known as Blue’s Crossing. It was during the struggles of the Reconstruction Period, twenty-nine years after the end of the Civil War. Allison Page’s lumber mill at Blue’s Crossing had been in operation for fourteen years. Bethesda Presbyterian Church was over one hundred years old, and Page United Methodist Church was five years old. The Aberdeen Rockfish Railroad had been organized and under construction for two years. The town of Aberdeen had been incorporated for one year. Robert N. Page was the Mayor of Aberdeen. It was ten years before the Wright Brothers made their successful airplane flight, and the automobile was practically non-existent. In fact, the world was a totally different world than it is today when a group of faithful Baptists met in Aberdeen on the fourth Sunday in May 1894 to organize the Aberdeen Baptist Church. The minutes of that first meeting are as follows:

Fourth Sunday in May, May 27th, 1894, a presbytery composed of Revs. C. Durham, L. Johnson, and C.V. Brooks met at Aberdeen for the purpose of organizing a Baptist Church. The following brethren and sisters presented letters and were duly constituted a church: J.L. Holland, W.R. Hunter, M.H. Holland, A.F. Yates, T.S. Carroll, H.H. Powell, C.A. Adams, E.W. Yates, J.W. Fagan, P.V. Holland, Ina V. Holland, Florence Yates, Louisa Randall, N.J. Fagan, Maggie Sharp, Olivia Drake, Ann M. Roberts, Dora Knight, Agnes Yates, Susan Gunter, Flora B. Hunter, M.M. McLeod.

J.L. Holland and W.R. Hunter were elected deacons and J.W. Fagan, clerk and treasurer. On motion Aberdeen Baptist Church was adopted as a name.

There being no further business conference adjourned.

C. Durham, Moderator

C.V. Brooks, Clerk

The three men who came to Aberdeen on the fourth Sunday in May 1894 to help organize the church were outstanding Baptist leaders in North Carolina.

Columbus Durham was born April 28, 1844, in Rutherford County, N.C. He entered

Wake Forest College in 1867 and graduated four years later in the first senior class after the Civil War. He was ordained in 1871 and began his first pastorate at Goldsboro Baptist Church. His next pastorate was at Durham First Baptist Church, and it was from this church he was called in 1888 to become the Corresponding Secretary of the North Carolina Baptist State Convention. During his term he played a leading role in the formation of the Baptist Orphanage in Thomasville. He served as member and President of the Wake Forest Board of Trustees, Trustee of the Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, and Vice-President of the Sunday School Board of the Southern Baptist Convention.

Livingston Johnson was born in Scotland County, North Carolina, November 7, 1857. He attended Wake Forest College and Southern Baptist Theological Seminary. He was ordained in 1888 and served as Pastor of Rockingham Baptist Church from 1888-1895. It was during this time he held a series of meetings in Aberdeen and became the first Pastor of the newly-organized Aberdeen Baptist Church. From 1895-1900 he was Pastor at First Baptist Church, Greensboro. From 1900-1915 he was Corresponding Secretary of the Baptist State Convention. From 1917 until his death in 1939 he was Editor of the Biblical Recorder.

Charles Vance Brooks was born in Jonesboro, Moore County, North Carolina, April 10, 1869. He was converted at the age of eleven and baptized into the fellowship of the Jonesboro Baptist Church of the Sandy Creek Association. He was licensed to preach and called to the pastorate of his home church, where he began his ministry in August 1890. He preached his first sermon in Juniper Springs near his father's home. During his early ministry he served several churches in this area.

The following article appeared in the Biblical Recorder on June 13, 1894:

A church organized in Aberdeen on the fourth Sunday in May. A presbytery consisting of Revs. C. Durham, L. Johnson and C.V. Brooks was called to organize a church in this place. Dr. Durham was chosen moderator and C.V. Brooks, clerk.

Twenty-two persons with letters from other churches were organized into a church, selecting brethren W.R. Hunter and J.L. Holland, deacons, and James W. Fagan, treasurer and clerk. They call themselves the Aberdeen Baptist Church.

The doors of the church were opened and three were received for baptism.

Brother L. Johnson began a series of meetings here on Monday

preceding the organization, and already much good has been accomplished. The meeting is still growing in interest under his ministry.

It was a glorious meeting last night when young men, noble, manly, brave-came forward with tearful eyes, and declared themselves on the Lord's side. May this meeting and the church planted here be of lasting good in the entire community.

C.V. Brooks, Clerk

Aberdeen, N.C.

The organizational meeting was held in the building known as "The School Town Hall Building," but right away the newly-organized church began to make plans for a building. On Thursday, May 31, 1894, the members met in a special called conference, and the minutes of that meeting reveal their determination to have a building:

Aberdeen, N.C. May 31, 1894. Aberdeen Baptist Church met in called conference. Moderator J.L. Holland, moderator, pro-tem in the chair. On motion J.L. Holland, J. W. Fagan, H.H. Powell, W.R. Hunter, C.A. Adams were elected trustees and appointed a building committee. The following sisters were appointed a committee to solicit subscriptions for a Baptist Church: Ina V. Holland, Louisa Randall, Maggie Sharpe, Agnes Yates, and Flora B. Hunter.

Rev. Livingston Johnson was unanimously called to supply the church at \$100 per year salary. There being no further business conference adjourned.

J.L. Holland, Moderator Pro-tem

J.W. Fagan, Clerk

On the fourth Sunday in July 1894, the committee on church building reported progress and a collection was taken in the church for a building fund which amounted to \$6.35. The Covenant and Articles of Faith were adopted at that time.

Covenant of Aberdeen Baptist Church adopted July 1894

Having been as we trust, brought by divine grace to embrace the Lord Jesus Christ and to give ourselves wholly to him, we do now solemnly and joyfully covenant with each other to walk together in him with brotherly

love to His glory as our common Lord. We do, therefore, in his strength engage:

That we will exercise a Christian care and watchfulness over each other and faithfully warn, exhort, and admonish each other as occasion may require;

That we will not forsake the assembling of ourselves together, but will uphold the public worship of God and the ordinances of His house;

That we will not omit closet and family religion at home, nor neglect the great duty of religiously training our children and those under our care for the service of Christ and the enjoyment of heaven;

That as we are the light of the world and salt of the earth, we will seek divine aid to enable us to deny ungodliness and every worldly lust and to walk circumspectly in the world that we may win the souls of men;

That we will cheerfully contribute of our property, according as God has prospered us, for the maintenance of a faithful and evangelical ministry among us, for the support of the poor, and to spread the gospel over the earth;

That we will in all conditions, even till death, strive to live to the glory of Him who hath called us out of darkness into the marvelous light;

And may the God of Peace, who brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus, that great Shepherd of the sheep, through the blood of the everlasting covenant, make us perfect in every good work to do his will, working in us that which is well pleasing in his sight through Jesus Christ to whom be glory, forever and ever.

The new church began to grow and flourish, and the short, concise minutes disclose the hard work, determination, and zeal of the early members of Aberdeen Baptist Church. Before May of the next year, 23 new members had been added to the roll, nine by letter and 14 by baptism.

At conference September 1894, the church voted to apply for admission into the Sandy Creek Association and the following delegates were appointed: H.H. Powell, J. W. Phillips, J. W. Fagan. Brother Johnson entered his resignation effective January 1895. His resignation was accepted and Rev. C. J. F. Anderson was called.

At conference December 1894, J.L. Holland and H.H. Powell were appointed a committee to go to the State Baptist Convention and solicit aid there for the building

program.

Within a year Aberdeen Baptist Church had a building, the same building that stands today on East Main Street. The minutes of the church conference in May 1895 reflect the joy and gratitude of the stalwart members of the young church as they made plans to move into their first building:

Aberdeen Baptist Church met in conference 4th Sunday in May, 1895. C.J.F. Anderson, moderator, presiding. Minutes of last meeting read and approved. On motion it was decided to dedicate the church on the 4th Sunday in June. The pastor was instructed to invite Reverend Livingston Johnson to deliver the sermon and to invite Dr. Columbus Durham and Brother N.B. Broughton to be present and assist in the exercises. There being no further business conference adjourned. Collection for building fund \$10.52.

C.J.F. Anderson, Moderator

J.W. Fagan, Church Clerk

Chapter 2

1895 -1946



First Building-Dedicated on the 4th Sunday in June, 1895

Aberdeen Baptist Church was now firmly established on East Main Street, and the building on that location provided a place of worship, study, and fellowship for sixty-one years. Her influence and ministry began; her light began to shine, never to be extinguished.

Though scant and incomplete, records of those years hint at the struggles, hard work, and dedication of the members of Aberdeen Baptist Church during her early years.

From 1895-1946 the following ministers served the church: C.J.F. Anderson, A.C. Cree, W.L. Wright, O.T. Edwards, C.G. Thomas, J.B. Richardson, J.M. Haymore, E.D. Poe, C.C. Wheeler, J.B. Willis, O.P. Campbell, W.E. Goode, W.T. Baucome, O.A. Keller, Jesse Blalock, C.L. Jackson, D.H. Ives, E. M. Harris. Several of these were not regular pastors, but only supplied for a short time while they were students at Wake Forest.

C.J.F. Anderson (Jan.-Sept. 1895) was a Wake Forest student while serving Jonesboro, Aberdeen, Bethlehem, and Siler City churches. Rev. Anderson graduated from Wake Forest, Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, and Kentucky School of Medicine; he served as a Southern Baptist Medical Missionary in Italy from 1900-1904.

E.D. Poe (1907-1910) was another Wake Forest student pastor. His Wake Forest Yearbook states, "Poe justly holds the distinction of being the best preacher in the ministerial class."

One of the early ministers, O.T. Edwards, almost found himself in trouble with his congregation. At church conference August 6, 1900, it was decided to have the deacons of the church visit the Pastor, O.T. Edwards, and some other brothers of his neighborhood and demand an explanation as to the reports circulating that he was taking an interest in politics. However, the matter was resolved as noted in the minutes of church conference the first Sunday in September 1900. At this time Brother Edwards made an explanation of the reports and said he had no apologies to make. The church took no further steps in this matter.

Church minutes in 1903 disclose another interesting anecdote concerning one of the early ministers. At conference on January 18, 1903,



E.D. Poe, Pastor 1907 - 1910

the church voted to call Rev. J.B. Richardson of High Point to preach once a month at a salary of \$125 per year plus his railroad expense. The minutes of the church conference on November 15, 1903, state:

On motion the following resolutions were adopted:

Whereas Mr. Henry A. Page, President of A&A Railroad, has at various times generously aided our church and is now giving us our Pastor's railroad fare from Asheboro to Aberdeen, it is therefore resolved:

First, that we hereby sincerely thank him and A&A Railroad for any and all favors rendered.

Second, that we put upon our book of permanent records the amounts of sums thus contributed by Mr. Page and A&A Railroad.

Third, that our clerk present Mr. Page a copy of these resolutions.

J.B. Willis (1911-1913) was one of the beloved pastors in the early days of Aberdeen Baptist Church. During this time, he preached one Sunday each month, either morning or afternoon, at Aberdeen, Flat Springs, Sandy Branch, Bear Creek, and Holly Springs. Later he was called to the First Baptist Church of Hamlet and served there from 1922-1959. His early mode of travel was by horse and buggy. He once said that "Patsy" (his mare) was a dependable four-footed friend, ready at all times to go as directed by her master. Early church records state that everywhere Dr. James Bennett Willis served, the church and community felt the quiet, humble, and peaceful influence of this small-statured man who was full of wit, good humor, and love for his fellowman, always with a twinkle in his blue eyes.

For the first twenty-two years the church had preaching services once a month. In February 1916 the members voted to hold preaching services twice a month. At this time they called W.T. Baucome to preach twice a month at a salary of \$500 per year, and they agreed to provide a parsonage. This first parsonage was located on Poplar Street.

The minutes of the Sandy Creek Association of December 1924 state that the Aberdeen Baptist Church was now paying their present pastor, Jesse Blalock, \$1,000 per year for half-time service, and the church had bought and paid for a very good parsonage.

Rev. D.H. Ives was pastor of the church from 1932-1934. Following is a copy of the front page of the church newsletter printed during his ministry:

THE LORD'S DAY NEWS.

ABERDEEN BAPTIST CHURCH Aberdeen, N. C.

DWIGHT H. IVES, Pastor

DEACONS

J. A. BRYANT, Chairman
W. W. NORRIS
W. E. FREEMAN
J. F. DEATON
V. F. TARLTON
WALTER OLIVE
T. B. WILDER, Honorary

OFFICERS

J. A. BRYANT, Supt. S. S.
W. E. FREEMAN, Asst. Supt.
W. W. NORRIS, Church Clerk
O. L. SEYMOUR, Church Treas.
MRS. CLARA B. LEWIS, Pres. W. M. S.

TRUSTEES

A. F. YATES
W. L. MOORE, Church Custodian
T. B. WILDER

*"I was glad when they said unto me, Let us go into the house
of the Lord."—Psalm 122:1*



E.M. Harris, Pastor 1935 - 1946

Rev. E.M. Harris was pastor for almost eleven years (1935-1946); his tenure included the turbulent years of World War II, and it can be assumed that Aberdeen Baptist church had a very significant ministry during the war years.

Early baptismal services were held in Aberdeen Lake. It is unclear just when the baptistry was added, but it was after 1921. Two present members of the church remember being baptized in Aberdeen Lake, Ruth MacFarland in 1919 and Minnie Rosy in 1921.

Sunday School was first mentioned in July 1896 when the church elected T.S. Carroll as Superintendent. In May 1903 the church voted to build an infant classroom; in April 1916 the church again voted to build Sunday School rooms. The historical sketch of Aberdeen Baptist Church in the 1924 minutes of the Sandy Creek Association state that the

Aberdeen Church had added five Sunday School rooms.

Revival meetings were an important part of church life during the early years; however, at that time these services were called protracted meetings. At church conference on March 20, 1904, the church voted to protract their meetings from third Sunday in May and instructed the Pastor to get Brother Little to help him. Minutes of church conference in May 1904 state the following: "J.W. Little did preaching for Pastor during the week of protracted meetings, both morning and evening, preached with great fervor and one convert reported, had large congregation and very attentive. Meeting closed May 22." Minutes of June 1909 church conference state: "Protracted meeting commenced on Wednesday night before the first Sunday in June. H.J. Stevens doing the preaching and the quartet from Wake Forest sang. The meeting was carried on for eight days." The following is recorded in the September 1914 church conference minutes: "Protracted services began on Sunday and continued through the week. Doors of church opened. Eight were received

as candidates for baptism and two came under watch care of the church.”

By 1939 these special meetings were known as revivals. The following article was found in a 1939 Sandhill Citizen:

BAPTISTS PREPARE FOR BIG REVIVAL

Dr. E.E. Wall, pastor of the First Baptist Church of Sanford, will arrive Monday morning to assist in a series of revival services at the Aberdeen Baptist Church. His first service will be Monday at 10 o'clock. There will be services every morning at 10 o'clock and every evening at 8 o'clock during the week.

Church membership was a very serious matter in the early years of the church; in fact, it was quite exacting and demanding. Scattered throughout the early minutes are records of members being dismissed due to immoral conduct, long absences, or nonpayment of dues. The minutes of the church conference on January 13, 1918, state:

On motion the following resolutions were adopted:

- I. That we institute a list in our church to be known as the Dead List.*
- II. That all placed on this list be deprived of the privileges of regular active members.*
- III. That the following classes be placed on this list:*
 - 1. All those away for a period of twelve months or more without communicating with the church in any way.*
 - 2. All those who persistently stay away from church without excuse and have done nothing towards the support of the church for twelve months or more.*
 - 3. Those known to be guilty of any unchristian conduct and who show no inclinations to make amends, who make no response to request of pastor, deacons, or church.*
 - 4. That all delinquents be notified of their standing and given an opportunity to make amends.*
 - 5. That no one on the Dead List be granted a letter until he or she has been restored to full fellowship and paid reasonable dues to the church for the period during which he has been inactive, That no member be granted a letter who is six months or more in arrears*

- until he or she has paid reasonable dues for the time lapsed.*
- 6. That the deacons be authorized to look over the roll from time to time and transfer to the Dead List all who place themselves there by failing to keep in good standing with the church and that the Dead List be taken up and acted on once a year by the church.*
 - 7. That any member on the Dead List may be restored to full fellowship at his or her own request by promising to live up to the obligations of a church member.*
 - 8. That any deacon or other officer who is absent two thirds of the deacon or officers' meetings be declared inactive and another deacon or officer be elected at the beginning of the following year to serve in his place.*

Aberdeen First Baptist Church has always been a loving and caring church, and early records show that this ministry began early in her history. On the fourth Sunday in July 1896 a collection amounting to \$23.00 was taken for Southern Pines Baptist Church. At conference fourth Sunday in November 1897 the committee on orphanage box reported that they had sent a box to the orphanage valued at \$12.25. At conference fourth Sunday in February 1899 the church voted to give a Bible to the new church at Biscoe, and then at the next conference in March, a collection of \$5.24 was taken for the Biscoe Church. In June 1905 the church voted to give one of their needy members \$5.00 a month until he was able to get on his feet again. In February 1906 the church received a letter from the Raeford Baptist Church asking for help in paying off their church debt. At this time A.F. Yates was appointed to solicit funds for the Raeford Church. The next month Brother Yates reported that he had collected \$22.00 for the Raeford Church and asked for a little more time so that he could raise \$25.00. Then on April 1, 1906, Mr. Yates reported that he had collected and paid \$25.00 to the Raeford Church. On June 13, 1915, the church agreed to raise, by soliciting funds, the amount of \$10.00 to purchase books for the Sanitorium at Montrose.

An outstanding ministry of Aberdeen Baptist Church was the work with the girls at Samarcand Manor. Though it is unclear when this work began, minutes of the Sandy Creek Association in 1924 state that Aberdeen Baptist Church had a membership of nearly 200 which included twenty-five girls at Samarcand Manor who had been baptized by Pastor Blalock. The work continued under the ministry of Rev. Harris. On December 7, 1935, the church agreed that Pastor Harris and Deacons should go to Samarcand and administer

the Lord's Supper to the girls there who were members of the church. Rev. Harris went to Samarcand Manor periodically and held baptismal services; for example, on June 17, 1945, he baptized 30 girls in the Samarcand Lake.

During this period of time, Aberdeen Baptist Church thrived and prospered, and at the close of 1946, she was ready to move into a new era of growth with a full-time minister and a challenging building program.

Chapter 3

1947 - 1957



Zeb A. Caudle, Pastor 1947 - 1953



F.E. Deese, Pastor 1954 - 1957

On March 10, 1946, Pastor E. M. Harris called the church into conference. He offered his resignation as pastor effective August 1. His resignation was accepted, and a pulpit committee was elected at this time.

In the Associational Minutes for September 30, 1946, Aberdeen Baptist Church reported total membership 227, Sunday School enrollment 183, Training Union enrollment 50. Total gifts for year were \$8613.94. Value of all church property was \$20,000.

On October 27, 1946, the church in called conference voted unanimously to call Rev. Zebulum A. Caudle from Lower Creek Baptist Church, Lenoir, N.C., as pastor. The deacons were instructed to arrange for a revival meeting sometime in November. This was arranged to begin November 11 with Rev. Caudle leading. A total of twenty-two additions were received and the church experienced a great spiritual blessing. Following is a copy of the card which announced this revival to the community:

SUBJECTS DISCUSSED IN EVANGELISTIC MEETINGS



ZEB. A. CAUDLE

"The Last Judgment"
"Visions In The Night"
"The Unpardonable Sin"
"The Best Place I Know"
"Making Room For God"
"How Victories Are Won"
"On The Other Side Of Death"
"Why So Many People Go To Hell"
"What To Do Before Meeting God"
"God Has Closed The Road To Hell"
"One Thing Every Christian Can Do"
"If There Is To Be A Revival ----?"
"What We Hear When The Devil Speaks"
"What I Heard When Hell's Door Opened"
"By Grace Are Ye Saved — Unto Good Works"

At the close of the service on November 17, 1946, Rev. Caudle accepted the call as pastor. On January 1, 1947, Rev. Caudle began his ministry as the first full-time pastor of Aberdeen Baptist Church.

On January 5, 1947, the church voted to authorize the Board of Trustees to sell the

old parsonage on Poplar Street and purchase the Arey property in Lakeside Heights, Summit Street, for a church parsonage.

On March 30, 1947, the Board of Deacons recommended that the church endeavor to raise \$10,000 for the building fund by the end of 1947. At the same meeting the pastor was instructed to appoint a Building Committee and a Finance Committee.

On June 11, 1947, the church voted to receive as candidates for baptism twenty-eight girls from Samarcand Manor and after baptism as associate members of the church.

On July 11, 1948, the church voted to adopt the recommendation of the Building Committee to purchase property from J. Talbot Johnson as the site for the new church building. Also, the Board of Trustees was instructed to purchase said property for \$9,000.

The following article appeared in The Sandhill Citizen at this time:

Baptist Authorize Purchase of Site For New Church Building in Aberdeen

At a congregational meeting of the Aberdeen Baptist Church held Sunday morning, the trustees of the church were authorized to purchase from J. Talbot Johnson, the house and lot known as the Kirk property between Poplar Street and the new highway as a site for the new Baptist Church. This lot has a 200 foot frontage on Poplar Street and the new highway and 400 feet in depth.

While the building plans of the church are not too definite at this time, chances are that work on the educational building will start within the next few months, says Rev. Zeb A. Caudle, pastor of the church.

On August 8, 1948, the church voted to change the name from Aberdeen Baptist Church to First Baptist Church of Aberdeen.

On December 8, 1948, a Ministerial License was granted to Max W. Wicker.

Church in conference January 16, 1949, voted to move buildings from Robbins Mill and to erect them on the church lot. The buildings were old barracks which the church used on the East Main Street property for Sunday School rooms, kitchen, and fellowship hall.

In August 1949 the church voted to withdraw from Sandy Creek Association and join with seventeen other churches to form the South Sandy Creek Association.

In September 1949 Deacon and Church Treasurer, O. Leon Seymour, died. He was very much involved in starting and promoting the building fund for the new church; he gave much time and money for this cause. F.H. Brown was elected to replace him.

On October 30, 1949, the Building Committee presented plans for the new building; these were not adopted until November 20, 1949.

On June 4, 1950, church authorized Board of Trustees to sell the Yates property located on the corner of Poplar and Maple Streets; this property had been left to the church by Mrs. Agnes Yates.

On May 25, 1952, the Building and Finance Committees recommended that construction on new building start no later than two years from date or when \$40,000 in addition to amount on hand had been raised. Also, the committees recommended that the church begin a Tithers' Club made up of members who would pledge a tithe of their income to the church until the new building was finished and paid for. These recommendations were adopted.

Associational minutes of 1952 report the following from First Baptist Church of Aberdeen: Total membership 341, Sunday School membership 319, Training Union 75, WMU 139, Brotherhood 42, Total gifts, \$26,314.56, Missions \$4151.61. Budget for 1952-53 was \$33,000.

On November 29, 1953, in called business meeting, Pastor Caudle presented his resignation effective last of December to become Superintendent of Baptist Home in Albemarle.

On March 14, 1954, the church in called business conference voted to call Rev. F.E. Deese as the new pastor of First Baptist Church of Aberdeen. Previously, they had expressed to Rev. Deese that the church would provide a larger parsonage in reasonable time.

On April 21, 1954, the church appointed J.M. Taylor, J.D. Arey, Jr., and Curtis Lawhon a committee to pick out a lot, build a parsonage, and offer it to the church at cost.

At the November 10, 1954, business meeting George D. Anderson stated that October had been the best financial month in the history of the church. At this time the Trustees and J.D. Arey, Jr. were authorized to sell present parsonage on Summit Street.

On December 8, 1954, the Parsonage Committee reported that house was finished at a cost of \$23,383.50 and was offered to the church for \$22,000 (This was the parsonage located on Highway #1). The Finance Committee recommended that the house be financed by approximately \$10,000 from old parsonage and a fifteen year loan of \$12,000. Payments on loan were \$88.80. At this same meeting the church voted to license Aubrey McClellan as a Minister of the Gospel.

Ground Breaking Service for the new building was held on January 31, 1955. The main speaker was Rev. Zeb A. Caudle. Other speakers were Rev. F.E. Deese, Mr. J.M. Taylor, and Dr. E.M. Medlin. Rev. Caudle, Rev. Deese, Dr. E.M. Medlin, and Mrs. W.W. Olive turned the dirt.

On July 6, 1955, the church accepted the recommendation from the Board of Deacons to include in the cornerstone of the new church building a complete list of the church membership, a list of membership of all organizations of the church, and a current bulletin.

The church on October 20, 1955, authorized J.M. Taylor, Chairman of the Finance Committee of the Building Fund, to apply for a loan of \$70,000 to be used to complete the church building. On November 9, 1955, church voted that if necessary the above loan be based on individual endorsements of notes ranging from \$1000 up. Later this was done.

On November 30, 1955, the Trustees were authorized to start negotiations with Charles Jennings of Church of Christ for the present building with no furnishings at a price of \$17,500.

On February 8, 1956, church authorized Trustees to make a short-term loan of \$70,000 to proceed with new building. The church voted at this same meeting to contract with State Capital Insurance Company for a loan of \$70,000 for ten years at 5% with a mortgage on new church building.

On March 14, 1956, the church voted to use the money from the sale of the Yates property to furnish educational plant in new church building and that a plaque be provided to designate this.

On May 23, 1956, the church adopted recommendation from Finance Committee and Board of Deacons to secure a Church Secretary for one year at a salary not to exceed \$3,000 per year and that duties and salary be discussed in open session. Mrs. Virginia Kimbrell was the first Church Secretary.

On June 6, 1956, the church authorized the Building Finance Committee to borrow up to \$30,000 to complete new building, including ground floor of educational building.

Plans to move into the new building on September 30, 1956, were announced at the September 16th business meeting. At this meeting the church accepted the gift of the painting for the baptistry given by Mrs. J.A. Bryant in memory of Mr. J.A. Bryant. Also, the church voted to discontinue work at Samarcand.

On May 15, 1957, a committee was elected to formulate a church constitution. Also, at this time the General Building Committee and sub-committees were released.

On May 31, 1957, the Trustees recommended that the church accept an offer of \$5250 from Church of Christ for old church building.

Pastor F.E. Deese asked J.D. Arey, Jr. to preside at a called business meeting on December 15, 1957. At this time Rev. Deese presented his resignation, effective at close of Sunday night service January 19, 1958. His resignation was accepted with regrets.

Chapter 4

September 30, 1956



New Building-Consecrated on September 30, 1956

September 30, 1956, was a glorious day for the First Baptist Church of Aberdeen. On this day, after many years of hard work, prayer, and sacrifice, the congregation moved into the new building and triumphantly celebrated and consecrated the new Sanctuary and Educational Building.

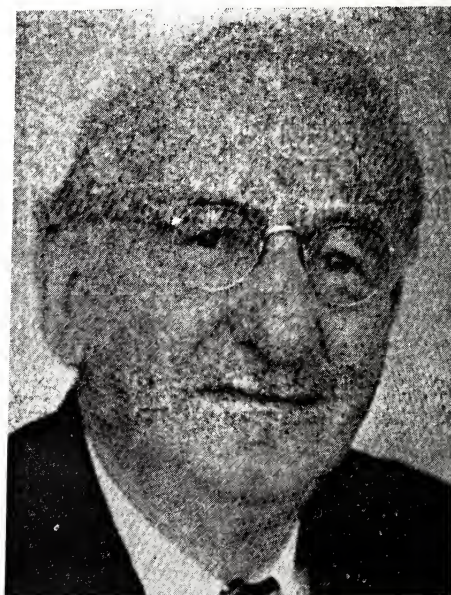
Members of the church had given sacrificially and labored tirelessly for this moment. Three members, Dr. E.M. Medlin, J.M. Taylor, and M.S. Weaver, had been the leaders and inspiration throughout the challenging building program.



Dr. E. M. Medlin, Chairman of the
Building Committee



J. M. Taylor, Chairman of the Finance
Committee



M.S. Weaver, Consultant to the Building
Committee

A picture of the new building along with the following article appeared in the October 27, 1956, Biblical Recorder:

The beautiful new building of First Baptist Church Aberdeen is situated in a commanding location, with the Sanctuary dominating the setting. The Sanctuary, colonial in style, is equipped with a Baldwin electric organ, and all furnishings are of true Colonial design. The main floor has a seating capacity of 380 in the pews, with 40 choir seats. The balcony will seat 112. With overflow space for 70 chairs, the total seating capacity is 602.

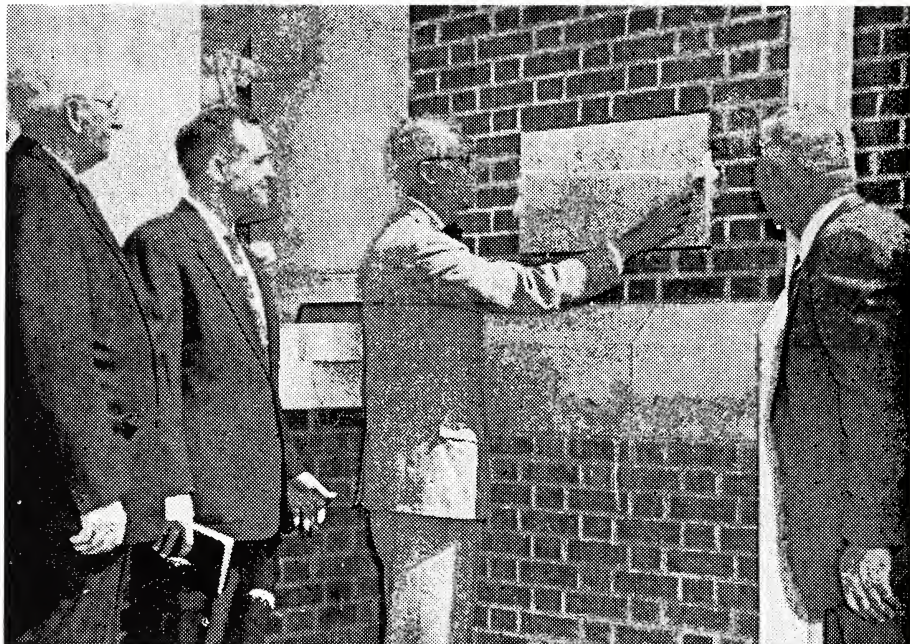
The ground level of the Educational Building provides space for two Adult Departments, consisting of 10 classes. Here also is located a Young People's Department with an assembly hall and five classrooms. Under the Sanctuary is located the recreation and dining area, with the main kitchen opening into it.

On the main floor of the Educational Building is the Nursery Wing with four Nursery Departments, reception room, and kitchen. Adjoining this are two Beginner Departments. The other wing of the main level houses the church offices, church parlor, and pastor's study.

On the top level of the Educational Building, provision is made for three departments: Intermediate and Junior, with assembly room and eight class rooms each; and Primary with assembly hall and six class rooms. All new furnishings for the Educational Building have been provided with funds from the estate of Mrs. Agnes Yates.

Total cost of the building with furnishings is \$240,000.

Consecration services were held in the new building on September 30, 1956.



The laying of the cornerstone of First Church, Aberdeen, followed the service of consecration held at 11:00 a.m. on Sunday, September 30. Seen above, left to right, are M. S. Weaver, Sr., building consultant; Rev. Eugene Deese, pastor; Dr. M. A. Huggins, cementing the stone in place; and Fred Rosser, contractor. Looking on from between the posts at upper left is Michael Weaver, grandson of M. S. Weaver.

The words of the pastor at this time, Rev. Eugene Deese, expressed the joy and gratitude of the congregation of the First Baptist Church of Aberdeen on September 30, 1956:

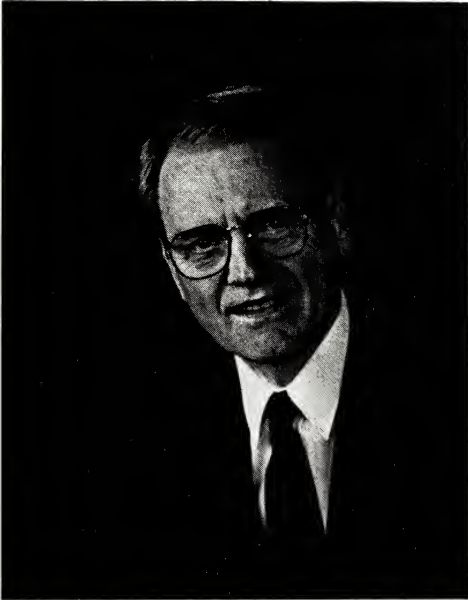
On this signal occasion our hearts leap within us for the sublime joy of this moment. Many years of planning, praying, and laboring have gone into making this dream come true. Many who loved and labored here are not present to see this building set on a hill "As a city that cannot be hid." We thank God for them. Their faith and courage gave to us a spiritual heritage which we have treasured and shall endeavor to pass on to others. Deep roots were planted for more than half a century at our old location, but we are all justifiably proud of the achievement which lies about us in the form of our greatly improved facilities. We take new hope in proclaiming the Word in such a Sanctuary as this. We take new courage in teaching with modern facilities and modern equipment. Opportunities hardly dreamed of now face First Baptist Church as she enters this new era of her history.

We have met the challenge of erecting this building in magnificent fashion. Even as we glory in the fact that one phase of the work is done, there is no time to stop and relax. Wider vistas of service are open and there are greater heights of glory in His service to be scaled. The deep inner life of the Christian is manifested not only in providing adequate material surroundings, but also in giving a consistent, persuasive witness to his faith. Thus, in one mind and one accord we move forward under the leadership of our God.

"Lead on, O King Eternal, The day of march has come; For gladness breaks like morning where 'er Thy face appears; The cross is lifted o'er us; We journey in its light; The crown awaits the conquest; Lead on O God of might."

Chapter 5

1958 - 1970



R.D. Spear, Pastor 1958 - 1963



Gwenn McCormick, Pastor 1963 - 1970

On May 11, 1958, First Baptist enthusiastically welcomed her new pastor, R.D. "Denny" Spear, his wife Varian, and their four children.

During his pastorate, First Baptist was very strong and active in many areas. With strong leadership from Rev. Spear and many very dedicated members of the church, there were programs and activities for everyone. The Youth Department was very active and the Senior High Training Union not only drew the youth from First Baptist, but also from the other local churches that did not have a Sunday Evening Program.

The Associational Letter sent by First Baptist at the end of 1958 indicates that the church had 381 resident members, 79 non-resident members, totaling 460 members. There were 42 girls enrolled in GAs, 14 children in Sunbeams, and Vacation Bible School enrollment of 171. Average Sunday School attendance ranged from 232 in 1958 to approximately 290 in 1962.

The Church Staff when Rev. Spear came as pastor consisted of Mrs. Virginia Kimbrell, Secretary, Mr. E.H. Poole, Choir Director, and Mrs. Hilda Swaim, Organist.

The average Sunday School attendance increased in 1959 to approximately 250.

During 1960 the average attendance in Sunday School and organizations increased. In May average Sunday School attendance was 282, and in November average attendance was 300. In November there was reported a total of 85 girls in the G.A. Organizations which were divided into six groups with an average attendance of 68 at the meetings.

In May 1960 Mr. and Mrs. George Anderson resigned as Treasurer and Financial Secretary. Mr. Herman Russell was approved to fill the position as Treasurer which he was to hold for the next 30 years.

The WMU organization was very active and created a community missions program to increase service in the community. Their plan was to rotate responsibility every three months among the circles in order to offer a perennial service to the ladies at McCain Sanatorium, the shut-ins of the church, the Pinehurst Convalescent Home, and some needy family in the community. This was certainly a major undertaking as a missionary outpost of God's Kingdom.

During 1962 Sunday School attendance averaged 290-312 and organizational groups were very busy. The church staff remained unchanged.

Of concern to church members during 1962 was the Supreme Court ruling concerning the abolishing of prayer in public schools and reference is made to much discussion about this in church minutes.

A very strong revival was held April 30-May 6, 1962. The revival was led by the Rev. Tom Haggai of Emerywood Baptist church, High Point, N.C. The music leader was Bill Souther of New Orleans Seminary.

The average attendance in Sunday School was approximately 290 during 1963. Age level organizations were very active as can be attested to in Juanita Robertson's report in April 1963. There were 121 children and youth enrolled in Sunbeams (4 groups), GAs (4 groups) and YWAs (2 groups). The GA Organization celebrated its Fiftieth Anniversary with a Mother-Daughter Banquet at which 52 were present.

On August 11, 1963, Rev. R.D. Spear resigned as pastor having enthusiastically led the church for five years. A pulpit committee led by George Anderson began the search for a new pastor while Dr. Bunn served as interim pastor.

On November 17, 1963, at a called business meeting of the church, the membership unanimously voted to extend a call to Rev. Gwenn McCormick, and he accepted that call.

E.H. Poole was serving as Music Director when Rev. McCormick came, but in February 1964 he resigned that position. A survey completed at that time revealed the need for and support of a full-time music and educational staff person and much thought was given to this.

Other significant events in 1964 include:

1. June -The sanctuary and upstairs were air conditioned.
2. August 12, 1964 - Herman W. Russell was licensed to preach and a letter was sent to Campbell College recommending him as a ministerial student.
3. October 28, 1964 - W.W. Norris was conferred the honor of Deacon Emeritus.
4. Hilda Swaim resigned in December as organist after serving for 6 years.
5. Sunday School attendance averaged 280-290.

In February 1965, the church voted unanimously to call Mr. Barry Lindly as Music and Educational Director. He served the church until November when he resigned to enter seminary.

Mrs. Nancy Singleton joined the staff as secretary in November 1965. In December the Samaritan Fund initiated by Mr. Jack Taylor was established by the church to help those in need. This fund remains today.

During the years 1966-1970 the minutes of the church do not provide a great deal of information. However, one very significant event occurred on September 18, 1966, when the church celebrated the liquidation of the mortgage with a special note-burning ceremony. The following article appeared in The Sandhill Citizen at this time:

First Baptists Burn Note

The First Baptist Church in Aberdeen celebrated the liquidation of the mortgage with special note-burning ceremonies Sunday.

Approximately 400 members and guests were present.

The Rev. Zeb. A. Caudle, pastor here 1947-1953, brought a message of retrospection and praise. The note was then burned by H. N. Russell, Treasurer; J. O. Singleton, Chairman of Deacons; Dr. E. M. Medlin, Trustee. As a climax to the service the Rev. R. D. Spear, Jr., who was pastor here from 1957-1963, brought a message of challenge.

The burning of the mortgage brought to a grand conclusion a stage of development for the church.

Recently the church has completed and approved a new five-year plan of development. The plan calls for the broadening of the ministry of the church in this community and for doubling the gifts to missions in five years. By 1971 the church plans to give thirty percent of its offerings to mission causes.



BAPTIST MINISTERS. In Aberdeen for the Note Burning Ceremony at First Baptist Church Sunday were two former ministers of the church, the Rev. Dennis Spear, Jr., left, now of Georgia, and the Rev. Zeb. A. Caudle, right, of Anson County. In the center is the Rev. Gwenn E. McCormick, pastor.



NOTE BURNING. H. N. Russell, left, treasurer; J. O. Singleton, chairman of the board of deacons, center, and Dr. E. M. Medlin, right, trustee, discuss how they would go about burning the final \$70,000 note on the church mortgage in the note-burning ceremony at First Baptist Church Sunday.

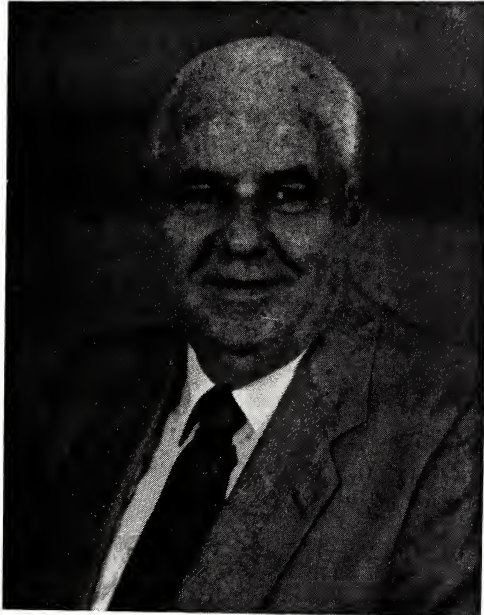
In 1968, the total membership was 570 with an average Sunday School attendance of 220. Revival in March 1968 was led by Rev. Frank Campbell.

In a special business meeting in September 1969 the church voted to discontinue Training Union on Sunday evening due to the lack of participation.

In February 1970, Rev. McCormick resigned effective February 22, leaving to accept a church in Whiteville, N.C. Rev. Carlisle Franks served as interim pastor until the church extended a call to Rev. Charles Hinson who began his ministry in January 1971.

Chapter 6

1971-1994



Charles S. Hinson, Pastor 1971 -

January 1, 1971, began a period in the life of Aberdeen First Baptist Church that could be called THE HINSON ERA. Charles, Jane, Chuck, Bill, and Joanna Hinson moved from First Baptist Church, Warsaw, North Carolina on December 30, 1970. Rev. Hinson began his ministry on January 1, 1971, and at the time of this writing he is in his 24th year as pastor.

On January 1, 1971, the church membership numbered 458 resident members, 156 non-residents, making a total of 614 members. The church budget adopted for 1971 was \$51,000. Comparing that with the 1994 statistics, the church at present has a resident membership of 396, a non-resident membership of 241, making a grand total membership of 637. The 1994 budget is \$223,462.00. The total expenditures for the calendar year of 1993 was \$276,657.85, with a total cash income of \$286,228.67.

The Church Staff has grown over the past 23 years from 1 full-time staff member to 3 full-time and 3 part-time members. They are Charles S. Hinson, Pastor; Gary Bodford,



Charlotte Hartson, Pianist at the time of the Centennial Celebration.

Associate Pastor; Deborah Richardson, Secretary and Organist; Mark Parsons, Minister of Music; Charlotte Hartson, Pianist; J.R. Small, Custodian.

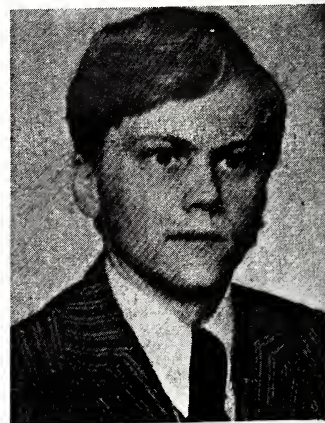
In the past 23 years the church has seen tremendous growth, not only in the financial contributions and budget increases, but also in expanded programs in music, children's activities, youth ministries, capital improvements in buildings and grounds, and overall greater involvement by lay persons.

Church history for the past 23 years could perhaps be best understood by looking at a year-by-year synopsis of events and ministries.

1971

One of the most significant events of this year was the ordination of Herman Wright Russell to the Gospel Ministry. Herman, son of Herman and Pauline Russell, was ordained on Sunday morning, April 18, 1971.

September was the special month in 1971. On September 12 the Sanctuary Choir appeared on television on Channel 5 in Raleigh. The Baptist Men's Organization began on September 16. On September 26 the church observed the Fifteenth Anniversary of the new building with homecoming services.



Herman W. Russell at the time of his ordination

The WHITE CHRISTMAS observance began on December 12, and each year since, this service has been an important part of the Christmas celebration at First Baptist. On December 19 the choir presented the John Peterson cantata "Love Transcending."

1972

This year saw the beginning of the ABERDEEN COMMUNITY CHRISTIAN RENEWAL SERVICES sponsored by First Baptist, Bethesda Presbyterian, and Page Memorial United Methodist Churches. The first preacher was Dr. Donald Miller, outstanding Presbyterian minister and author of several books.

Joe Lennon was named LAYMAN OF THE YEAR by the N.C. Baptist Men's Department of the Baptist State Convention.

Nancy Singleton resigned as secretary in May 1972. Mrs. Jayne Robinson replaced her.

The congregation honored the Hinsons at Christmas time by presenting them with a trip to the Holy Land.

1973

A tape ministry to shut-ins was begun in January. Four cassette players were purchased and the Sunday School classes took the responsibility of taking the taped messages of the Sunday Services to the shut-ins.

The Second Annual Christian Renewal Week was held with Dr. Wallace H. Kirby, pastor of Hay Street United Methodist Church, Fayetteville, as guest preacher.

A major project this year was the distribution of the Gospel of John to every home within the city limits of Aberdeen. This was done in cooperation with Bethesda Presbyterian and Page Memorial Churches.

First Baptist hosted a YOUTH HAPPENING with the team of Albert Long as guests.

Linda Moore, a junior at Meredith College, served 10 weeks as summer youth worker. Her work was under the supervision of the Youth Corps Department of the Baptist State Convention.

Dr. E. M. Medlin presented the church with a new Allen Organ, given in memory of his wife, Hilda. The pulpit and choir areas of the sanctuary were renovated.

A wonderful highlight of 1973 was a Hawaiian Luau sponsored by the Youth Department.

The DEACON FAMILY MINISTRY began this year.

The first outdoor Christmas Drama was held December 19-23 on the upper parking lot with four performances each evening. The Adult Choir presented the Christmas cantata "Carol of Christmas."

1974

Mrs. Estelle Kelso resigned as organist. Mrs. Troy Geer served as interim until Mark Shelley was called as the new organist in June.

Linda Moore returned for her second summer as Youth Corps Worker.

In May the church voted to purchase an activity bus.

Mrs. Jayne Robinson resigned her position as secretary in October to enter the floral business. Mrs. Rita Cameron was called as secretary to replace Mrs. Robinson.

The outdoor Christmas Drama was repeated again this year.

1975

First Baptist Church hosted the fourth annual CHRISTIAN RENEWAL WEEK with Dr. John Redhead as guest minister.

The Youth Choir, under the direction of Linda Callis, summer youth worker from Campbell College, presented the youth musical, "The Common Cup," at the end of the summer activities.

The church voted to construct a ramp on the north side of the building; Curtis Lawhon was elected to be in charge of the construction.

The outdoor Christmas Drama was repeated again this year.

1976

The handicap ramp was completed in February. The church expressed sincere gratitude to Curtis Lawhon and Curtis Baker for the excellent construction of the ramp.

Boys in grades 1 through 6 were organized into a R. A. Chapter.

Phil Reid joined the church staff as summer youth worker.

The church voted on July 25 to add another person to the full-time church staff. This position carried the title of Minister of Religious Education.

The church observed homecoming on September 26 which also marked the Twentieth Anniversary of the occupancy of the present building on Sandhills Blvd.

On November 21 the church voted to call Rev. Michael Harris as Minister of Religious Education.

1977

In a special business meeting Sunday, February 6, the church voted to cancel all evening activities for the month of February except the mid-week service due to the fuel shortage; the mid-week services were held in members homes.

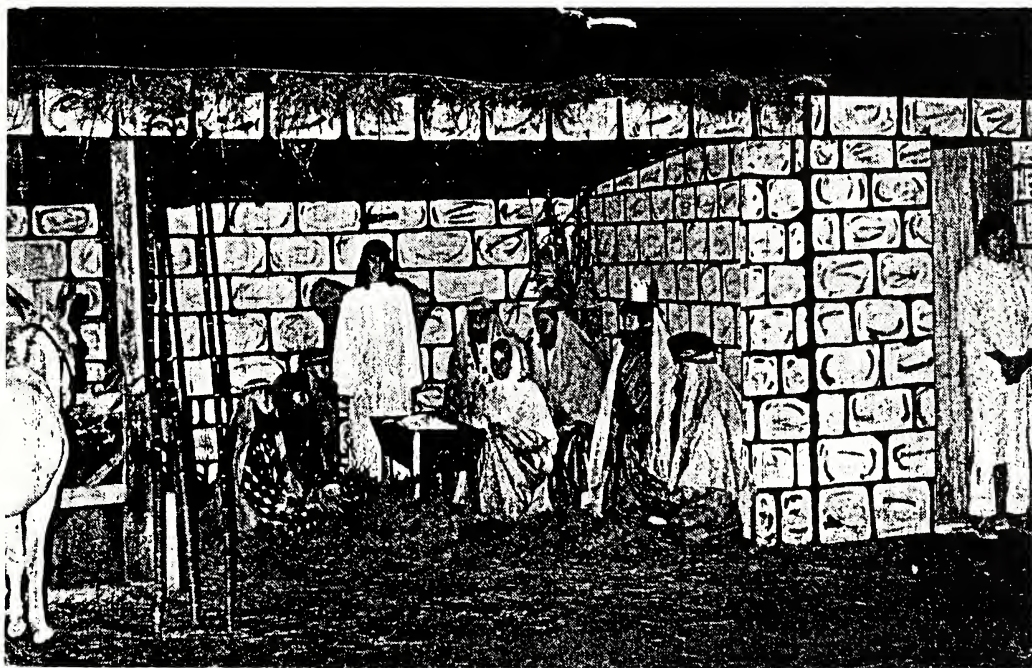
Pew cushions were installed in the chapel given in loving memory of Bess Veasey by her husband, Harry.

On September 1, Deborah Richardson joined the church staff as organist. The Children's Choir presented the children's musical "It's Cool In The Furnace" as a climax to their summer activities.

The church cooperated with the Sandhills Baptist Association in sponsoring a WORLD MISSIONS CONFERENCE in October.

The Baptist Men led a drive to send a truck load of supplies to the flood victims of Yancey County in the mountains of North Carolina.

The outdoor Christmas Drama was presented on the upper parking lot December 20-23. Approximately 1,000 visitors viewed the story of Christmas as depicted by the Youth Department.



Scene from Outdoor Christmas Drama

1978

Aberdeen First Baptist Sunday School was selected by the N. C. Baptist State Convention Sunday School Department to receive the CHURCH PROGRAM ACHIEVEMENT ADVANCED MERIT AWARD. This award is given by the Convention Sunday School Department for overall church ministry and programs. Dr. Robert Stewart, Director, presented the award to the church on March 19.

The Youth Department began a puppet ministry in April. Circus Tent Ministries of Kitty Hawk, N.C. led the training sessions. Youth adopted the name MUPPETS FROM A TO Z.

Barbara Geer, Minister of Music for eleven years, resigned due to the transfer of her husband, Eddie, to Fayetteville, N.C. In September the church called Mrs. Elizabeth Layton as Minister of Music.

1979

In loving memory of their son Bill, Mr. and Mrs. S.A. Benson provided funds for the beginning of a handbell choir. Dedication of the Hand Bell Choir was held on May 13.

Mrs. Rita Cameron submitted her resignation as secretary; Elizabeth Layton, Minister of Music, assumed the duties of secretary.

Michael Harris resigned as Minister of Education in June. In September David Marks was called as Minister of Education and Youth.

On Sunday, August 26, Donald W. Hall, son of Lane and Marie Hall, was ordained to the Gospel Ministry.

The purchase of a Century III Six Bell Chimes was approved. The chimes were installed in the steeple.

Elizabeth Layton resigned her position as secretary but remained as Minister of Music. Deborah Richardson, organist, was named secretary on September 1.

1980

The beginning of 1980 brought about the organization of the Senior Adult Group, the "KEEN-AGERS." The Keen-Agers took their first trip to Williamsburg, Virginia, May 20-22.

Elizabeth Layton resigned as Minister of Music.

After two years absence the outdoor Christmas Drama was presented on the upper parking lot December 20-23.

1981

On the first Sunday of the new year a special luncheon was held in honor of the Tenth Anniversary of the pastorate of Charles S. Hinson. Charles, Jane, Chuck, Bill, and Jo were guests of the church at a covered dish luncheon following the morning worship service.

The church voted to purchase a new 1981 fifteen passenger Ford Super Wagon for church activities and ministry.

The N.C. Baptist State Convention elected Rev. Hinson as President of the Council on Christian Social Services. His responsibility was to work closely with the Baptist

Children's Homes, Baptist Hospital, Baptist Retirement Homes, as well as serve on the Executive Committee of the Baptist State Convention.

HOME COMING 1981 was a very special day. On September 27 the church observed her Silver Anniversary of moving into the present building on Sandhills Blvd. Former Pastor Dr. R.D. Spear was the guest speaker for the occasion.

Mrs. Linda Bryant joined the church staff as Minister of Music. A Children's Choir, "Joyful Sounds," was organized in October. The Adult Choir presented the Christmas Cantata "Home For Christmas."

1982

This year saw the beginning of the radio ministry; in February the morning worship service was broadcast for the first time on Radio Station WCEL.

In July, David Marks led a mission team of youth and adults to Mill Creek, West Virginia, to conduct VBS and Backyard Bible Clubs.

The church participated in the North Carolina Baptist Convention HERE'S HOPE REVIVALS in April. This was a joint effort with the General Baptist Convention.

The outdoor Christmas Drama was again presented this year by the Youth Department. The Adult Choir presented the Christmas cantata "An Old-Fashioned Christmas."

1983

This year began with a very special event, the ordination of Robert H. Morrison, Jr. to the Gospel Ministry. He was ordained on Baptist Men's Day, January 23, 1983.

Linda Bryant submitted her resignation as Minister of Music due to the relocation of her husband. Deborah Richardson served in this interim position until a new staff member was called.

Some of the Baptist Men went to Old Fields, West Virginia, to work on a mission project with the Old Fields Baptist Church.

Margaret Butler was called by the church as Minister of Music in March.

A World Missions Conference was held in the Sandhills Baptist Association. Rev. Hinson was the Missions Director. Twenty churches participated.

1984

The Board of Deacons in their regular monthly meeting on January 9 unanimously elected Margaret Butler to the position of secretary. Deborah Richardson submitted her resignation due to the birth of her twin sons.

At Easter the Adult Choir presented a TENEBRAE SERVICE depicting the final days in the Lord's earthly life.

A three-day Child Care Program began in September. This was designed to give

children, ages 2-4, the opportunity of attending a day school for three hours per day Tuesday-Thursday.

A Youth Mission Team went to Pence Springs, West Virginia, in July to conduct VBS and Backyard Bible Clubs. David Marks, Margaret Butler, and Grace Brigman accompanied the team.

Mrs. Irene Cooper and Mrs. Evelyn McCaskill presented cushioned chairs for the choir suite. These chairs were given in loving memory of their husbands, James Cooper and Arnold McCaskill.

A special service was held on Sunday, August 26, to commemorate the Thirtieth Anniversary of the Pastor's ordination. Dr. Dewey Hobbs, Director of the School of Pastoral Care of Baptist Hospital, was the guest speaker. Representatives from the other pastorates of Rev. Hinson were present and each one spoke briefly. Following the service a covered dish luncheon was held in honor of the occasion.

1985

This year began with the resignation of Margaret Butler as Minister of Music and Church Secretary. Deborah Richardson returned to the church office as secretary. David Marks resigned as Minister of Education to accept the position of Chaplain at Cameron Morrison Youth Center.

The church voted to combine the positions of Music and Education into one position and seek a full-time Minister of Music and Education. Bruce Hill, graduate of Southwestern Seminary, was called in May, and he began his duties in July.

For the first time the church participated in the HANGING OF THE GREEN service at Christmas. The service included music, scripture, and a complete decorating of the sanctuary.

1986

This was the Centennial Year for the Woman's Missionary Union of North Carolina. The ladies of the WMU joined with the state organization to commemorate 100 years of service and ministry.

The Keen-Ager Choir was organized under the direction of Bruce Hill. Rehearsals were held each Thursday morning at 10:00 A.M.

Ten messengers from the church attended the Southern Baptist Convention in Atlanta, Ga.

Fifteen youth and adults went on a mission trip to Lee, New Hampshire, to work with a Home Missionary in VBS and other mission projects.

A STAFF APPRECIATION NIGHT was held on Wednesday evening, August 20.

The church staff was surprised with a covered dish supper given by the congregation in their honor.

HOMECOMING '86 was observed on Sunday, September 28, commemorating the Thirtieth Anniversary of occupying the present building. Rev. F.E. Deese, who was pastor during the building construction in 1956, was the guest preacher.

1987

Bruce Hill, Minister of Music, submitted his resignation in February to accept a similar position at Highland Avenue Baptist Church, Montgomery, Alabama.

First Baptist was chosen by the N.C. Baptist State Convention to be one of the select number of churches to participate in a survey for the Long Range Planning Committee of the state convention.

The church purchased a VCR camera and three TV monitors to be used in the nursery and for leadership training. .

The Keen-Ager and the Children's Choirs jointly presented the musical "Side by Side" on June 7.

A KITCHEN FACILITIES IMPROVEMENT FUND was established. The first items purchased were a commercial size stove and a commercial size refrigerator. Other improvements followed.

A ten-week seminar entitled "Parenting By Grace" was conducted in the fall. A large number of members participated in the study.

Deborah Richardson was honored on September 13 in recognition of her ten years on the church staff.

Deborah Keaton was called as Minister of Music on September 20.

A unanimous recommendation from the Trustees, Board of Deacons, and Finance Committee was presented to the church to sell the parsonage and give the pastor a housing allowance. The Trustees were given the authority to transact the sale.

After some years absence the outdoor Christmas Drama was once again performed on December 21-23.

1988

A marriage enrichment seminar, was held in the spring. It was entitled "Covenant Marriage." This proved to be a very successful event with many couples participating in it.

In recognition of Senior Adult Day, the Keen-Ager Choir presented a musical entitled "Reflections."

Several memorial gifts were received this year. For more than 22 years Lora and

Wilbur Tinder faithfully prepared the elements for the observance of the Lord's Supper. Wilbur Tinder gave a beautiful twenty piece silver communion set in Lora's memory. Coy and Sandra Richards gave a beautiful Parament set for the pulpit and communion table in Mrs. Tinder's memory. James and Gladys Odum gave a new RSV black pulpit Bible for the sanctuary in loving memory of Ervin and Remelle Workman.

The sale of the parsonage was announced by the Trustees . The sale price of \$80,000 was accepted. The money was placed in a savings account with the earnings from this money used as a housing allowance for the pastor.

1989

Wilbur Tinder provided the funds for the construction of a beautiful new church sign. It was erected on the front lawn of the church; installed at the top of the sign is the old church bell from the original church building on East Main.

Deborah Keaton, Minister of Music, resigned in August.

The church participated in the WORLD MISSIONS CONFERENCE sponsored by the Sandhills Baptist Association. Rev. Hinson was the World Missions Director, working with DOM, J. Billy Graham. Twenty churches participated in the special week.

1990

The new year began with the purchase of a new 1990 fifteen passenger van to replace the 1981 van that had been giving trouble. The funds for the purchase of the new van came from the generous gift that had come to the church from the Louise McKeithan Estate.

In August, the Children's Choir presented the children's musical "The Greatest Show on Heaven and Earth." This was the culmination of a summer-long program for children.

In September, the Sunday School presented "Five Fabulous Sundays." The "Five Fabulous Sundays" campaign gave added incentive to visit, invite, and enlist both absentees and new members for Sunday School.

A very special recognition service was held in September honoring Herman Russell for thirty years of faithful service as Treasurer of the church.

1991

This year began with the church family holding a PASTOR APPRECIATION DAY honoring Rev. Hinson on the occasion of his Twentieth Anniversary as Pastor of Aberdeen First Baptist. David Marks, former staff member, was the guest speaker for the day. Another former staff member, Margaret Butler, presented the special music.

One of the outstanding events of 1991 was the Youth Department's sponsorship of "Enchanted Island Paradise" in the fellowship hall. The fellowship hall was decorated like an island paradise. Rev. Paul Nickens was the guest speaker for the occasion. A large attendance enjoyed the evening's festivities.

New carpet was installed in the chapel. Also, a forty-nine bell Century III Carillon System was installed in the sanctuary and steeple.

In April, Rev. Gary Bodford joined the church staff as Director of Church Ministries. Gary and his wife, Janice, came to First Baptist from Winston-Salem, N. C. They both graduated from Wingate College, and previously they had served numerous churches in the North Carolina Convention.

The Youth Department participated in "Atlanta Fest" in Atlanta, Ga. in June.

In July a beautiful chandelier was installed in the vestibule, given by Helen Selby in loving memory of James Selby.

September saw the celebration of the Thirty-fifth Anniversary of the present building. Homecoming services were held in recognition of this occasion on September 22.

1992

The Building and Grounds Committee, led by Chairman Bob Veasey, sponsored the planting of nine beautiful Bradford Pear trees in the back parking lot of the church. These trees were given by individuals in loving memory of deceased family members or friends. Also, new Baptist Hymnals were purchased by the individual contributions of church members and friends in memory or in honor of special individuals.

A commissioning service was held on July 5 for the mission team going to Ocean City, Maryland, for a week of mission work with the Home Mission Board.

The Keen-Ager Choir presented the musical for senior adults entitled "Saints Alive."

Two very beautiful memorial gifts were made to the church during 1992. A lovely antique porch lamp was installed over the front door entrance to the sanctuary, given by Bob Veasey in loving memory of his wife, Margaret. The family and friends of Mrs. Minnie Kitchen presented a lovely funeral pall to the church in loving memory of Mrs. Kitchen.

As a special part of the Christmas celebration the Youth Department sponsored a dinner theater, "In Bethlehem Inn." Two performances were held on December 13. The proceeds were used in mission projects of the department.

1993

Steeple renovation was done by the Kivett Company of Clinton, N. C.

The Senior Adults held a Coastal Retreat at the N. C. Baptist Assembly at Fort Caswell in April.

A new computer system was given to the church by Linda and Donnie Oldham.

Dr. Jack Causey, pastor of First Baptist Church, Statesville, was the guest minister for the spring revival.

The Youth Mission project for 1993 was the renovation of Mrs. Hazel Smith's home. Over 50 youth and adults participated in this week-long project.

First Baptist, through the Food Bank, became a major source for providing free food to needy families in the community, and because of this effort and ministry, the church was awarded a grant from the N. C. Food Bank.

Mark L. Parsons joined the staff in October as Minister of Music.

Some beautiful memorial gifts were made during 1993. A brass unity candle stand was given by family and friends in loving memory of Mrs. Thelma Hartshorne. Also, Miss Ruth MacFarland presented a piano for the fellowship hall as bequeathed in the will of Mrs. Thelma Hartshorne, her sister. Metal flower stands were given in loving memory of Garland Williamson.

1994

In January, First Baptist Church began her five month Centennial Celebration

Another outstanding event of this year was the Easter Eve Vigil Service led by Mark Parsons. Special Lenten Banners were prepared for the sanctuary. The Vigil Service was held on Saturday evening, April 2, beginning at 10:45 P. M.

A major renovation took place in the church kitchen. The old kitchen was torn out and a completely new kitchen was constructed at an approximate cost of \$20,000. The new kitchen was dedicated to the memory of James Selby, deceased member who was Chairman of the Building and Grounds Committee and was committed to this project before his death.

One of the greatest undertakings of the church in the area of missions was done this year. A team of thirty-eight youth and adults went to Buffalo, N. Y. as a part of the N.C. Baptist State Convention's partnership with the New York Convention. The group worked with the Orchard Park Baptist Church. It was a very successful endeavor for the church and especially for those on the mission team.

This year also saw the complete revamping of the church library. Mary and Don McCluskey led in the renovation of the library. New books were purchased and catalogued; the church family was encouraged to utilize the facilities of the new library.

A beautiful new brass cross was installed in the sanctuary, given in loving memory of Garland Williamson by his wife, Virginia.

The year 1994 proved to be one of the outstanding years in the one hundred years of the church's existence and history.

Chapter 7

1994

Centennial Celebration



Church Members portraying charter members at the Centennial Celebration. Back row from L to R: Vivian & Cornie Green, Tim McCluskey, Joe Rosy, David Garner, Jim Connor. Middle row: Marion Moss, Judy McCluskey, Gail Garner, Jon Black. Front row: Tom Vicars, Harold & Rita Cameron, Virginia Williamson, Grace Brigman, Ray & Frances Bosworth, Herman Russell, Charlie Caddell, Sandra & Sherill Lee, Geraldine & William Black

From January until May 1994, Aberdeen First Baptist Church joyously and triumphantly celebrated her 100th birthday. The Centennial Committee was elected in September 1993 and immediately began planning for the 100th Anniversary Celebration. The committee members were Virginia Kimbrell, Virginia Williamson, Geraldine Black, Gail Garner, Marion Moss, Grace Brigman, Frances Bosworth, Joe Rosy, Herman Russell, Vivian Green, Rebecca Matthews, and Don McCluskey. Rev. Hinson and Rev. Bodford represented the Church Staff. Don McCluskey was elected chairman.

Three salient principles guided the committee as they made plans and decisions:

First: to honor and glorify God in all the celebration.

Second: to involve the entire church family as much as possible.

Third: to celebrate over a period of time.

The celebration began on January 9, 1994, with a Kick-Off Banquet for the entire church. George Huffstettler, Thomas Rock, and Don McCluskey prepared the meal. The banquet speaker, Rev. Paul Nickens, challenged the congregation to remember their heritage as they work and plan for the next one hundred years.

Robin Calcutt, using ideas submitted by several church members, designed a very appropriate and meaningful logo; the logo was used throughout the celebration.



Virginia Kimbrell & Rebecca Matthews at the Centennial Celebration

To involve the children and youth, the committee sponsored an essay contest. Children in grades 1-3 were asked to write a letter to their parents telling them why they liked the church; children in grades 4-6 were asked to write Rev. Hinson or Rev. Bodford explaining what the church meant to them; the youth in grades 7-12 were asked to use their imagination, look into the future, and write a letter to their yet unborn child explaining how the church had nurtured and inspired them. The winners received a \$50 savings bond and were given the honor of reading their essays at the Celebration Service on May 29. (Winning essays are included at the end of this chapter). Centennial moments each



Cornie & Vivian Green at the
Centennial Celebration

Sunday morning during the worship service were an enjoyable and enlightening part of the celebration. Several members, former members, and guests participated in these moments, sharing their memories, feelings, and love for the church.

May was the big month of celebration with special speakers each Sunday. Rev. F. E. Deese, Pastor from 1954-1957, spoke on May 1; Rev. R. D. Spear, Pastor from 1958-1963, spoke on May 8; Rev. Gwenn McCormick, Pastor from 1963-1970, spoke on May 15; Dr. Roy Smith, Executive Secretary of the North Carolina Baptist Convention, spoke on May 22.

The Centennial Celebration ended magnifi-

cantly on May 29. The Handbell Choir, Brass Ensemble, Adult Choir, and members portraying the twenty-two charter members joyously contributed to the glad celebration. Rev. Herman Russell of the Foreign Mission Board was the speaker, and because Rev. Russell had grown up and had been ordained in Aberdeen First Baptist Church, his challenging message was even more meaningful and inspiring. Then, as members and guests enjoyed a delicious meal on the front lawn, there was time for reminiscing and renewing friendships.

In an interview printed in The Citizen News-Record just before the May celebration began, Rev. Gary Bodford expressed the feeling of the entire church when he said, "There's just a good spirit in this church!"



At the Centennial Celebration Minnie Rosy (far right) with daughter, Mary Marks; granddaughter & husband Frances & Ray Bosworth; great-grandchildren, LeAnn & Brian Bosworth

Rev. Charles Hinson expressed his feelings about the Centennial Celebration on the front page of The Link, June 5, 1994:

I hardly know where to begin as I try to describe my feelings about last Sunday's celebration. If I were forced to find adequate words to express my emotions of the day, I think even the dictionary itself would be inadequate. I have so many wonderful images burned into my memory of the day's events that it will be impossible for me to ever forget the 100th birthday of our church. The first picture I caught in my eye was early Sunday morning as Jane and I drove into the parking lot. There were people working everywhere, putting up tables and chairs on the front lawn. Others were cleaning the parking lot with air blowers and brooms. Inside, people were busy putting on the last touches to the sanctuary, making sure that everyone would be comfortable and taken care of. It was a good feeling to see so many at work getting ready for the day. And then came 10:15 A.m.!!! Time to begin the celebration. Who will ever forget the wonderful sight of those dressed in the attire of 1894? And what a tremendous excitement that began to build as the sanctuary filled to capacity, 430 in attendance! It was a culmination of all and even more than we expected. There is no way we can adequately express appreciation to all those of our church family who worked to make the day the success that it was. Everything fell into place and developed so smoothly. It proved that all our planning and preparation was worth the effort. I simply want to say, Thank you, Aberdeen First Baptist Church Family, for all you did to make it a grand and memorable day!! But let us not let the day be a memory only. Let us remember the challenges before us as we move into our SECOND CENTURY of ministry and service in the Kingdom of our God.

Winning Essay
Nichole Woolsey - Second Grade

Dear Mom,

I like Aberdeen First Baptist Church because we go on lot's of fun trips like skating, bowling, and the nursing home to give Valentines to very old people who don't get many visitors. In Sunday school we play fun games. My Sunday school teacher's name is Mrs. Jenifer. I like her because she is nice and makes the bible stories fun and interesting and tells me about Jesus. I like G.A.'s because we make lot's of neat things and do neat things. I like big church because they give you paper to work on.

This is the best church I've ever been to. Thank's mom for taking me to Aberdeen First Baptist Church.

Love,
Nichole

Winning Essay
Brian Briley - Third Grade

Brian Briley
Abberdeen First Babitest
church
To my best grandparents.
The most important thing
that happend to me at
this church was when
I got babtized. I realy
like this church because
we learn about missionary's.
I like Mr. Henson when he
tells us about Jesus. In
church at R.A's my Dad
lets us read about
cristians. I realy love being
an R.A. It's the best thing
I have ever been in. It's
a lot better than School.
You learn here at church
moor about Jesus crist
than you do at school about
spelling and math. I realy
love to learn about Jesus
Crist here at this church. I like
it when we rais money for the

Poor people. One Sunday morning
when church is going on and
Mr. Hinson is preaching then
after church, I can not wait
for next Sunday. I just love
learning about Jesus Crist.
I can't wait until I learn
moor about Jesus, God and
Jesuses 12 dishels.

Winning Essay
Michelle McCluskey - Fourth Grade

Dear Mr. Hinson,

In the summer of 1991 I was thinking and feeling that the Lord wanted me to make a very important decision, getting baptized. So I went and talked to my dad and he said "If you feel you are ready talk to Mr. Hinson". The next Wednesday after 4:00 I went to your office and we talked for about 30 minutes about my decision. When we finished I went home and watched T.V. for a little while and then went to bed. When I got in bed I thought about it and then prayed I was making the right decision. The next Sunday while they were singing the Hymn of Invitation, I felt it was my turn, so I walked to the front and told you what I felt. After church many people came by and congratulated me on the decision I had made, it made me feel really good! Finally when it was the Sunday for me to be baptized, I was nervous. But when it was my turn to step on that board, I forgot all about it. Then my dad started reading 1 John 4:7-11. To me this verse means you should love everyone as God does. I knew then that I was doing the right thing. I enjoy coming to this church and it's important to me that I'm a member of it.

Love Michelle
McCluskey

Winning Essay
Josh Profitt - Tenth Grade

April 16, 1994

Dear Don,

It's been a while since your mother and I last heard from you so I decided to write you a little letter. Now that you've gone off to college I want remind you how important it is that you continue to go to church. Your relationship with Jesus Christ is the most important thing you have. That is a lesson I learned a long time ago. A great deal of that lesson was taught to me during my membership at Aberdeen First Baptist Church. Remember the church we would go to when we visited your grandma and grandpa Sessions. Yes sir, that church gave me a lot.

The First Baptist Church of Aberdeen gave me a home for my christian faith. The love of all the people filled my soul. To go to church to see the beautiful smiling faces of Frances Bosworth, Mo. Beck, and Ted Zovette

made getting out of bed more than worth it. The wonderful people of that church also gave a lot of money so that I and the other youth could go places like Caswell and do things that would help us grow closer to Christ. The church also gave me an opportunity to serve God and my community. I loved our summer mission trips to Ocean City, Maryland and Buffalo, New York. (Yes son, that church gave me a lot.

You know son, a few people stick out in my mind when I think about that church. One of those people is Rev. Gary Bedford. Gary gave me a lot of spiritual guidance when I really needed it. I thank the Lord for Gary. Francis Bosworth is another that sticks out in this cloudy memory of mine. She was an active woman whose goal was God's will. She was someone you could talk to easy and would give you good Christian advice. I have to say

that your Grandma and Grandpa
Dessien stick pretty far out too. I
was truly bless to have hard working
loving, christian parents. But
those who are most vivid are the
christian friends I made through
the youth group at that church.
These friends helped me through
the tough teenage years when Satan
attacks you so much. You'll probably
remember these names: Anessa Caton,
Brian Moss, Misty Mayfield, Kevin
Garner, Torrey Bowman, Brian
Bosworth, and the rest of the Aberdeen
First Baptist's Youth Group.

Son, I want you to know that
I pray daily that God will bless
you in your search for a church as
much as he blessed me with the
First Baptist Church of Aberdeen.

Love your father,
Dad

P.S. "He that walketh with wise men
shall be wise." Proverbs 13:20a

Winning Essay
Christy Lee - Eleventh Grade

To my dearest child,

As I gaze at my image in the mirror, I see a slightly gray headed woman reflecting back at me. I remember back when I was a teenage staring in to the same mirror. The image has changed now. Some things are so different now but other things will never change.

My christianity is very strong and on going, and it all started when I was a young child like yourself growing up in Aberdeen 1st Baptist Church. I can remember attending Mission Friends with Nellie Wilson as my teacher and completing all six mission adventures. I went to Camp Mundo Vista many times and I participated in the Bible Swor Drills and went all the way to the state level. I sang in the Joyful Sounds and also sang solos and played the prano throughout the years.

As a teenager, in the 1st Baptist youth department was a wonderful experience. I think this was when my christainity began to really grow and become strong. The youth department taught me compassion, leadership and responsibility. When you get a little bit older you can experience some of the same things I did as a member of the youth. We had pool parties, trips to the mall but most importantly we learned how to witness. I remember my 9th Grade year when we went on a mission trip to Ocean City, Maryland. We taught bible school at some camp grounds and provided a soup kitchen and a Parents Night Out for the people in the city. It was a wonderful experience that I never will forget. Our youth group was always so close. We spent so much time together doing various jobs in the community, and we always had fun. The youth group had many church outings to Caswell Beach.

and Ridgcrest which always seemed to touch me in a very special way.

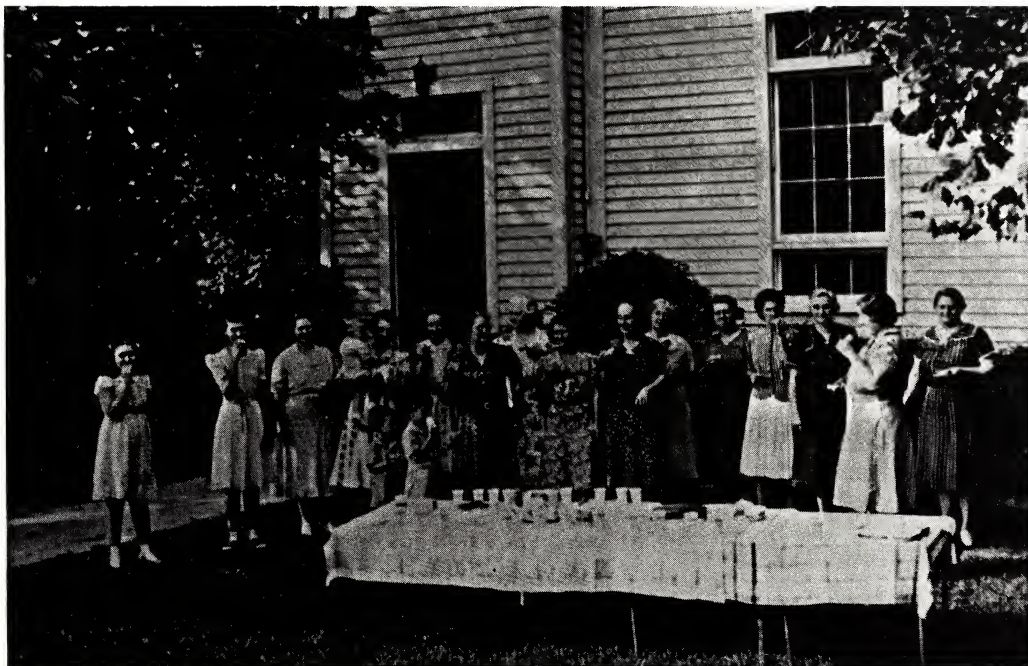
My dear child, I am writing to you because I love the Lord. I have grown up in a christian home and hope to raise you in the same environment. God has worked wonders in my life. All of my accomplishments in life would not have been if I didn't have God in my life. The First Baptist Church of Aberdeen has been such a large part of my life since birth. I just couldn't image my life without the comfort and support of our church family, I hope that your youthful experiences will be as fulfilling as mine were with Aberdeen First Baptist. This church laid the groundwork for me, in which to build my life around. This will happen to you too. Just always believe in the Lord and everything will work out.

With Love,

— Mom 

Chapter 8

Moments and Memories



Ladies and children of the church (about 1938) From L to R. Jean Olive, Irene Olive, Mrs. Queen, Mrs. Ulma Taylor and her sons, Frances Jean Freeman, Mrs. W.E. Freeman, Mrs. Miller, Mrs. Ida White, Mrs. Clara Freeman, Mrs. Ernest Harris, Mrs. Claude Johnson, Nell Queen, Mrs. W.W. Norris, Mrs. W.W. Olive, Mrs. A.F. Dees

During our Centennial Celebration, we became reminiscent and nostalgic. We read old records and shared our Memories, often saying to one another, “Do you remember....” and “Tell me about...”. Then with a smile on our lips and sometimes a tear in our eye, we began to write our Memories. Some of these Memories became Centennial Moments shared with the congregation during the worship services on Sunday mornings. Others are recorded just for the fun and joy of remembering. Here in this chapter are our Moments and Memories.

Centennial Moment - January 9, 1994

by Frances Bosworth

It is a real pleasure to serve on the Centennial Committee. When I said yes to the committee, I didn't realize that I would receive a double blessing, learning so much about my church that I love and grew up in and learning so much about my own family history.

For you see, my great grandparents, J. S. and Mary Frances Cozart, joined the church on January 11, 1920. My grandfather, Will Rosy, joined this church on September 24, 1922, and my grandmother, Minnie Cozart Rosy, joined as a young girl of 15 on July 3, 1921. Her 73 years as a church member make her the member with the longest living membership record.

Part of her contribution to this church should be considered her family because they have followed her example of Christian living. She has always been there to undergird us with love and understanding, teaching us it is better to give than to receive, do unto others as you would have them do unto you, and love your neighbor as yourself. These are the lessons she learned from her church, and she has taught them to us.

Grandma has four children, eleven grandchildren, and sixteen great-grandchildren. Many of them are or have been members of this church. Today members of our family teach in the Nursery, Children's, Youth, and Single Adult Sunday School Classes. Others serve on such committees as Finance, Food Closet, Kitchen, Flower, Video, Children and Youth Council, Sunday School Secretary, Ushers, and Board of Deacons. This is a tribute to Grandma's strong belief in church involvement.

Grandma Rosy has supported this church for 73 years, and she says she will continue that support because she loves this church, her pastor, her leaders, and the entire congregation. And she believes this church is fulfilling God's command to reach and serve others through God's love.

Without a strong early membership made up of many members like Grandma, I feel this church would not be the torch of inspiration that she is today.

Centennial Moment - January 16, 1994

by Vivian Green

Let me say in the beginning, that after last Sunday's Centennial Moment presentation by Frances Bosworth, I have a hard act to follow. She did a wonderful job in paying tribute to her Grandmother, Mrs. Rosy, whom we all love and admire. It was so fitting to begin our Centennial Year Activities by featuring the oldest member from the standpoint of church membership.

The Centennial Year Logo which was unveiled last Sunday depicts two hands holding a cross. One large hand represents adults, perhaps even senior adults, and a smaller hand, a youth. These two hands remind us of the unbroken chain which connects the past with the future. In the Old Testament Book of Joel and repeated in Acts in the New Testament, we find these words: "Your young men will see visions; Your old men will dream dreams." While this scripture was perhaps written with a different time in mind, it is so appropriate for us here today as we begin our Centennial Year. When we are young, we like to anticipate and plan for the future. As we grow older, we tend to reflect on the past. I wonder if Joel, the Prophet, was not describing daydreaming or reminiscing rather than regular dreaming. I, for one, just dearly love to daydream. The best part about daydreaming is that you can choose your favorite subject about which to reminisce. You can blot out the things which you don't particularly care to remember. Isn't it wonderful that our Creator gave us this ability?

With that in mind, I would like to reflect with you about an event which occurred in perhaps May or June 1956, just prior to our moving into the new church building in September that year. The new church building on what is now Sandhills Boulevard was nearing completion, and everything was going pretty much on schedule when someone remembered that no provision had been made for purchasing an organ for the new facility.

After much thought and discussion, and I'm sure many prayers, a plan was devised to pay for it by asking each member who would to pay for a part of the new organ, not just contribute toward the Organ Fund, but to actually buy an organ part. An elaborate drawing of the proposed organ was made on a large poster board with each part of the organ shown separately, along with the price of that particular part. For example: one pedal may have been priced at \$100; a music rack, \$75; the keyboard, \$500; etc. The total price of all the parts amounted to the price of the organ. Members who wished to participate were asked to sign their names under the part they chose to pay for. On a designated Sunday, Cornie and I were asked to stand at the walk near the entrance of the church, with the drawing, and accept pledges as the members departed. A large number of pledges were made that

day, and many more were added later.

This ingenious plan for underwriting the cost of the new musical instrument proved to be most successful and made it possible to obtain the organ without having to borrow additional money.

As the popular news anchor might say, "That's the way it was in June 1956 at Aberdeen First Baptist Church."

Centennial Moment - February 13, 1994

by Marion Moss

The WMU Organization has been a very vital part of Aberdeen First Baptist Church since her early years. The first minutes we have of what was then called Woman's Missionary Society are from meetings held in 1927. Frequently mentioned names in these recordings are Mrs. Yates, Mrs. MacFarland, Mrs. Farrell, Mrs. Bryant, and Mrs. King. It is obvious from these first minutes that the Woman's Missionary Society was organized prior to 1927.

Through the years, the WMU Organization has not just "studied" missions, but has lived missions, supported missions, and encouraged missions. In the minutes of March 1928 the WMS reported the organization of WMS at Taylor Memorial Baptist Church (Roseland Area), and Aberdeen Baptist Church proposed plans to assist in starting an organization at Ashley Heights Baptist Church, exemplifying Aberdeen's desire to encourage others in mission support and mission action.

Year after year, the minutes of the WMU are filled with evidence of mission action, mission study, mission support, and dedication to the growth of Aberdeen First Baptist Church. The pages are filled with names, some familiar to us, some are not. The one word that comes to mind when I read these names is **commitment**, for certainly between the lines on these pages is a history of tremendous commitment on the part of women dedicated to their Lord, their Church, and to Missions. Names like Yates, Bryant, Farrell, Taylor, Johnson, Matthews, Benson, Robertson, Cooper, Brigman, Williamson, Fowler, Hinson.

Another word found between the lines of these minutes is **vision**. Many of these women maintained a vision of WMU in years to come. Not being content with what they had, they worked to assure that the WMU would be a vital part of Aberdeen First Baptist Church in 1938, 1960, and 1994. Recorded in the WMU minutes of January 1937 is the concern expressed by Mrs. Jack (Ulma) Taylor, President, that the growth of the Junior Organizations (GA, YWA, Sunbeam) was declining. She discussed the importance of these organizations to the future of missions and appointed a committee to re-establish

these. Certainly this vision inspired by Mrs. Taylor, and many who followed after her, is exemplified in the report given by Mrs. Juanita Robertson in April 1963: "We began the year ('62-'63) with eight age-level organizations and have added two more." Mrs. Robertson reported four Sunbeam Groups, four GA Groups, and two YWA Groups, with a total of 121 members! **Vision, Commitment, Dedication**, words put into action by mission-minded women in the history of WMU at Aberdeen First Baptist Church.

Today we continue to have women dedicated to the WMU and her goal. There are four Circle Groups, three GA Organizations, and one Mission Friends Group. The commitment and vision continues through the efforts of Frances Allred, Grace Brigman, Mary McCluskey, Frances Bosworth, Marion Moss, Pat Lancaster, Debbie Marks, Juanita Robertson, Virginia Williamson, Pam Smith, Judy McCluskey, and many others who pray that their efforts can still be realized in the year 2094 in a strong WMU Organization at Aberdeen First Baptist Church.

Centennial Moment - February 20, 1994

by Evelyn Taylor

The Centennial Moment today is a time to honor one of our members of long standing. Jack Taylor has been a member and pillar of this church since 1930. He has filled many places, including Deacon, Sunday School Teacher, Sunday School Superintendent, and has served on many committees. He is at the present time a Deacon Emeritus.

The Deacon Board used to meet in his office at Taylor Chemical Company, the meetings sometimes lasting until 11:00. One of the deacons of the church said that Jack was always patient to see that everyone had their say, but had an almost uncanny ability to bring a meeting to a close when it became obvious that nothing of significance could further be accomplished. He did it in such a way as not to hurt anyone's feelings or embarrass them.

Jack has helped a lot of young people with funds for their education. Out of this came a Student Loan Fund, started by Jack. He also started the Samaritan Fund to be used to help people in need. A great host of people, both in the church and outside the church, have benefited from this fund. Both of these funds are current and helping others today.

Someone recently said that Jack never let his success change him, but he truly remembered and appreciated his roots. That fact contributed to his desire to assist those who were less fortunate through no fault of their own.

For years, Jack allowed Youth Groups, the Deacons, Baptist Men, and Sunday School Classes to use his beach house for their retreats. These groups enjoyed the gracious living

by the sea at no expense. Each of his pastors and their families always enjoyed a full week at his beach house each year.

During his 64 years as a member of First Baptist, he has graciously and unselfishly contributed his time, talent, knowledge, wisdom, and resources to improve the work and ministry of the church. As a dear friend and member of the church recently said, "I suppose what impressed me most about Jack was his quiet and unassuming manner. He was, at the same time, a real mover and shaker, as far as getting things accomplished."

I think it is fitting that we honor Jack today, the same day you young folks are here from Wingate, for that is a school dear to Jack's heart. He has been on the Wingate Board of Trustees for about 25 years, and in 1988 was made a Lifetime Honorary Trustee. He has been supportive of the school and is giving financial aid to students through a Scholarship Fund.

Although Jack has now become less active in church activities because of his health, his heart is very much in everything that's going on and he realizes the early seeds planted in this Church and her Ministries have not been in vain, but have bloomed to full fruition.

Somewhere I read that, "Success is nothing more than doing what you do well, and doing it without the thought of fame. If fame comes at all, it will come because it is deserved, not because it is sought after." This exemplifies Jack Taylor.

Centennial Moment - February 27, 1994

by Virginia Kimbrell

The opportunity to serve this church as her first secretary began in October 1956. We had just moved into this building when Rev. Deese came to me and asked if I would consider serving as Church Secretary. He said he would only need me for about three hours a day, and he had been authorized to offer me a salary of \$20 per week.

My office was the small room which is now used by Gary Bodford. It contained a small table and two cane bottom chairs. Rev. Deese soon located an old desk and was given a typewriter "of sorts" by a member. Previously, our church bulletins were typed and printed at Taylor Chemical by one of their ladies. Long after I began doing the typing, we had to take the bulletins over to Taylor Chemical to be run off, and they were folded on their machine also when it was not in use. Harry Watson was always generous in giving his time to teach me to use the name making machine, which used metal plates on which to type the names. It made so much noise it couldn't be used when anyone else needed to use the room. There was a lot to learn when I first began work, and for a while it seemed I was forever running errands and making two or three trips daily getting help from the

employees of Taylor Chemical. However, we soon acquired the necessary equipment, mostly gifts from members, and I learned to be useful in my job.

When Rev. Deese left late in 1957, I really found out just how hard it was to keep up with church needs. Rev. Denny Spear became our pastor in 1958. Denny decided to publish a weekly newsletter to send to the members and called it The Link, hoping to encourage better attendance and participation in our church work. I continued as Church Secretary until September 1965 when I resigned to assist my husband in his business.

Many, many people have worked to make our church what it is today. Thank God, the work at First Baptist still goes on to better serve our Master.

Centennial Moment - March 13, 1994

by David B. Funderburk, Ph.D.

Former US Ambassador to Romania

Chairman International Romanian Relief Fund.

It is always good to be home. This is a really special moment for me, and I appreciate you letting us return to our childhood church so that I can thank you for what it meant to me while growing up. I grew up in Aberdeen, going to Aberdeen Schools, was in the Boy Scouts, and regularly attended this church. My mother, Vesta Young Funderburk, made sure that we (my sisters, Gail, Judy, and Betty Dare) came to this church. My wife, Betty Jo, and my wife's mother were part of this church, too. I am happy to have my sisters and several members of my family here with me today.

In the fall of 1956, I became a member of First Baptist Church of Aberdeen. Three years before that, I received this Bible from the Junior Department (of the old little white church before this one). I learned that as Baptists we are a people of the Bible. It is central to our churches and our faith. I learned here that character does matter and that values are important. There is a right and a wrong. And I learned that with faith, dedication, and hard work, one can move mountains, perhaps change the world, and certainly make a real difference.

After I left Aberdeen and graduated from college, I became a college professor, and I got involved in the political process. One day in 1981, the President of the United States called me on the telephone in North Carolina to ask if I would serve as the US Ambassador to a foreign country (in this case, Romania). It was quite an honor for the son of a school teacher from the town of Aberdeen. I never forgot what this church and town meant to me.

When I was serving as the US Ambassador to Romania, we attended some Baptist

churches. There, Baptists are a tiny minority and are persecuted for their religious faith. There under these circumstances, we saw what real faith was. Some of the church members and leaders noted to me in the dictatorial atmosphere of the Communist Country that they were flattered that a US Ambassador would go to their small Baptist Church. And, as they told me, as important symbolically as that may be, more important is 2 Corinthians 5:20, "Now then we are all Ambassadors for Christ."

Thank you, First Baptist Church of Aberdeen, for what you have meant to me and to my family. Congratulations on your 100 years of service. May you continue to impact on the lives of so many for another 100 years and beyond. God bless you all. Thank you.

Centennial Moment - March 27, 1994

by Macky Kyle

I have been asked to come today and give the Centennial Moment on the Benson Memorial Handbell Choir.

On August 19, 1978, Mr. and Mrs. Benson lost their son, Bill. Mr. and Mrs. Benson and Jessie sought something that they might donate to the church in loving memory of a very dedicated Christian, Bill Benson. They conferred with both Charles and Jane and decided upon a gift of handbells. In 1979 Mr. and Mrs. Benson and Jessie gave to the church 25 handbells, complete with cases, gloves, and music to help form what is now the Benson Memorial Handbell Choir.

The first rehearsal for the Handbell Choir was held on January 28, 1979, under the directorship of Liz Layton. The bells were later dedicated during the group's first performance in a special service held on May 13, 1979. The group has since then played during numerous Worship Services, once at the lighting of the Christmas tree in Aberdeen, and several times during the Christmas season at the Morrison Youth Institute, just to name a few.

The original group was composed of members from 7th grade through adults. Some of its first members were Marion Moss, Bill and Juanita Lomax, Jim Odum, David Marks, and Jo and Bill Hinson.

As I mentioned, Liz Layton was the group's original director. The next was Linda Bryant, followed by Margaret Butler, Bruce Hill, Debbie Keaton, and finally, Mark Parsons. Deborah Richardson was most gracious to serve as interim director all the times we were without a full-time Music Director.

The handbells themselves have been added to twice by the Bensons. In December of 1981, under Linda Bryant, the church received a third octave of bells. And under Bruce

Hill, the church received an additional octave, for a total of 49 bells or four octaves.

At this point I would be remiss if I did not say that not only is the church very fortunate to have the bells and the Bell Choir, but even more important, the church is very fortunate to have an individual such as Mrs. Benson. She is one who truly loves the Lord and her church. Many times during our conversation this morning, Mrs. Benson said that she loves her church and that she has a particular affinity for both the G.A.'s and the Handbell Choir.

Centennial Moment - April 3, 1994

by Coy Richards

The Choir is an important part of each worship experience. The praise songs from the Choir set a worshipful mood in our Sanctuary. First Baptist Church of Aberdeen has always had dedicated Choir Members, and we have had many dedicated Choir Directors. Each Director has had his or her own style of directing. Because of this, we have been blessed with many different musicals and programs presented by the Choir. The Choir does not just sing on Sunday mornings; there are many practices, fellowships, and special socials, including dinners and cookouts. Being a Choir Member for 43 years has been a most joyous experience in my life. We all need to use our talents for God's glory. We have had many wonderful Choir Members who are now singing in Heaven's Choir. Let us remember these this morning.

Centennial Moment - April 17, 1994

by Juanita Robertson

I want to speak about our family, what our church means to us, and about some dear souls who have meant so much to us. Jack and I and our small son, Jimmy, moved to Aberdeen just before Christmas in 1948. Jack began working at Robbins Mill; we moved into our Colonial Heights home and immediately joined Aberdeen First Baptist Church. Soon afterward our daughter, Mary Alice, was born. Mr. and Mrs. E. T. Davidson, who lived across from the mill, would come by and take us to church before we were able to have a car.

Jack attended Sunday School in the Annex Building, and, at first, I attended the Agnes Yates Ladies' Sunday School Class. Mrs. Remelle Workman taught this class. I became a member of the WMS about the same time. Soon I was asked to work with the GAs, and for several years, Mrs. Remelle Workman and I were GA Counselors. We would have the meetings in my home, and Mrs. Workman would bring the girls from town, and we would invite the girls from Colonial Heights. We often visited Mrs. Agnes Wiley, a dear member

of our church. Mrs. Wiley touched the lives of our GA girls, and today there is a WMU Group in our church named for her. Another person who always helped with the GAs was Mrs. Ida White. I also became a YWA leader in the late 50's or early 60's. My co-leader was Mrs. Alma Walters.

Jack was a RA Leader and served on the RA Council. He was Secretary and Treasurer of the Men's Brotherhood and taught the 13 year old boys in Sunday School. He was honored by being ordained as a Deacon in October 1971, and on June 13, 1993, he was made a Deacon Emeritus.

Through the years, Aberdeen First Baptist Church has meant a lot to our family.

Centennial Moment - April 24, 1994

by Mary McCluskey

Isn't it fun to remember, to learn about our history? But it's much more than just fun; it's moving and challenging as we begin to understand how very much we owe to those who came before us.

One member of our church, Ruth MacFarland, can make our history come to life. The minutes show that Ruth's father, A. T. MacFarland, joined Aberdeen Baptist Church by letter on the fourth Sunday in September 1897, and that his wife, Minnie MacFarland, joined by baptism in April 1903. The records also show when their three daughters joined: Thelma 1913, Augusta 1914, Ruth June 13, 1919. At that time there was no baptistry in the church, and Ruth remembers being baptized in Aberdeen Lake.

Ruth remembers C. F. Yates and Agnes Yates, charter members of our church whose names appear over and over in those first minutes. In fact, Agnes Yates was her first Sunday School Teacher.

A. T. MacFarland was very active in the early days of our church, serving on committees, attending Associational Meetings; Ruth remembers his working very hard to solicit funds for the building program. Minnie MacFarland's love and interest was the WMU, and in the early WMU minutes, her name appears again and again. At one time there was a WMU Circle in our church called the Minnie MacFarland Circle.

The three girls were all musical, and their mother sacrificed to give them piano lessons with the one desire that they use their talents in the church.

The family lived on the corner of High and Pine Streets near the old Baptist Church. Ruth recalls that every Sunday morning as the family prepared for church, they could hear the church bell ringing, the same bell we have out in front now, and the bell always seemed to say to her family, "Come to church."

To A. T. and Minnie MacFarland, to Thelma, to Augusta, to Ruth, and many others we are indebted for the heritage that is ours at Aberdeen First Baptist Church.

Centennial Moment - May 1, 1994

by Virginia Williamson

When our family moved to Aberdeen in 1957 on a hot Saturday afternoon in June, as the moving van was being unloaded, Aberdeen First Baptist Church was the first to greet us. Reverend Eugene Deese stopped his car there on Poplar Street and came to greet us there in the yard and invited us to church the next morning. Our family never forgot that caring moment.

Recently, I mentioned to a young friend of mine that I was thinking of the ways that our church shows that she is a caring church. Before I could say more, he immediately started telling me of ways the church had ministered in the community. Right off, he mentioned the White Christmas boxes, and how he and his mother had appreciated the food and the show of concern and love. The White Christmas project is a combined caring of every member from the very smallest (some are brought to the Christmas tree in the arms of their Sunday School teacher) to the very oldest of us, walking more slowly. My young friend also told me how he had observed the members of our church coming to visit us when Garland and I had sickness in our home. It impressed him. He remembered Joe Rosy coming with a basket of grapes.

Our radio ministry means very much to a lot of people, he told me. We don't always know how many have been touched by our caring. Our church cooperates with the Methodist and Presbyterian Churches in ministering to transients who come needing assistance. For a long time, the church has contributed to the Cooperative Program, Foreign Mission Program, and Home Mission Program through the Southern Baptist Convention.

Each year we have a World Hunger Emphasis and make contributions to this worthy cause. At the present time, the church is very active in the Food Bank Service. Approximately 250 individuals and 60 households are served each month with canned food, staple items, baby food, diapers, and health and hygiene products. Fifteen to twenty church members, along with the Church Staff, assist in this vital ministry to the needy. Through our Deacon Ministry, WMU Groups, Brotherhood, GA's and RA's, we visit the sick and the elderly and help with their needs.

Today, being Senior Adult Sunday in our Convention, I cannot help but mention the love and care shown by our pastor and his wife, the staff, and all members and organizations

to the "young at heart" in our church. We call ourselves "Keen-Agers" or "K-Agers" for short. We just love this attention!

I have mentioned only a few examples of the caring ministry of our church as set forth in our Centennial Logo: **BOUND TOGETHER IN SERVICE, IN MEMORIES OF YESTERYEAR AND HOPES FOR THE FUTURE.** May we always go forward.

Centennial Moment - May 8, 1994

by Sylvia McCreary

Our family became a part of Aberdeen First Baptist Church in 1953. I was in the sixth grade; my sister, Brenda, the first grade; and our brother, Jim, was all of three years old!

Today I'm not here to speak just about my memories, but about what this church meant to my father, James Cooper. In our home one thing was a given, if the church doors were open, the Cooper family would be there! Not only would we be there, but be there on time. Actually, I think it was well before time!

Through the years, Dad was involved in the work of this church in many ways: Choir Member, Chairman of the Grounds Committee, Sunday School Teacher of a Young Couples' Class, and later, the Medlin Men's Bible Class, and Deacon.

I can recall coming with him to check out this building. I know how proud he was of this facility and how he saw the church's presence up on this hill as a form of witness to the community. He rejoiced over this church's times of growth and anguished in her times of trial. But the main thing he valued was the depth of spirituality here. I remember him praying in this church, even saying an occasional "Amen." I remember him singing here. He especially enjoyed the quartet numbers with Carlisle Franks, Bill Lomax, and Jim Odum. I also remember him speaking his convictions in this church, sometimes accompanied by a jiggling of change in his pants pocket. At home I recall his praying for this church, her ministers, and her leaders.

He would want me to say thank you for being here, for who you are, and for all you have been to the Cooper family the last 41 years. But most importantly, he'd thank you for what you have done for the Kingdom of Jesus Christ.

Centennial Moment - May 22, 19

by Martin Parrish

Our Deacon Emeriti First Baptist Church. Our constitution reads, "When a Deacon has distinguished himself in dedicated and unselfish service over a long period of years, and when because of age, he is no longer able to serve as an active Deacon, he may be named

Deacon Emeritus by a unanimous recommendation of the Deacon Board and approved by the Church." This is an honorary position. These men have been an inspiration to our church. They served as Deacons, Trustees, and in many leadership capacities. They served on many committees, such as Finance, Building, Grounds, as Teachers, and as Director of Sunday School, Baptist Men, and RAs.

The first of these were Mr. J. A. Bryant and Mr. W. E. Freeman, who served during the first 50 years of the church. Mr. Bryant served as Deacon, Chairman of the Deacon Board, Sunday School Superintendent for a long period of years, and on numerous other committees. Mr. Freeman served as Deacon and Chairman of the Deacon Board. He taught Sunday School for several years, teaching in at least two different age groups of Adult Classes. They were elected Deacon Emeriti on September 8, 1946.

Mr. W. W. Norris joined the church on November 28, 1926. He served 37 years as a Deacon and 22 years as Church Clerk. He served as Teacher of the Older Men's Class. He was elected Deacon Emeritus on October 28, 1964.

Dr. E. M. Medlin served as Trustee, Deacon, Teacher, and Chairman of many committees. At his suggestion and promotion in 1945, a permanent building fund was begun, and he was elected Chairman of the Building Committee for this building. The Medlin Bible Class is named in his memory. He was elected Deacon Emeritus on September 19, 1971.

Mr. W. W. Olive joined the church on August 19, 1923. He served the church as Deacon, Choir Member, on various Committees, and was Church Clerk for many years, adding up to over 49 years of service. He was elected Deacon Emeritus on October 1, 1972.

Mr. W. D. White, after joining the church in 1940, served the church in many official and leadership positions as Deacon, Trustee, and many years as Chief Usher. He was elected Deacon Emeritus on September 1, 1974.

Mr. Wilbur F. Tinder served in numerous areas of our Church. He prepared our Communion Service for many years. One of the things he enjoyed most was working with the community "Meals on Wheels" Program. He was elected Deacon Emeritus in 1988.

Mr. Jack M. Taylor, Sr. served our Church as Chairman of the Deacon Board and Finance Committee Chairman many times and was Chairman of Finance Building Fund during construction of this building. He was elected Deacon Emeritus in the year 1988.

Mr. Harry Veasey, since joining the church in 1937, served as Deacon Board Chairman and Finance Committee Chairman several times. He served as Sunday School Director and in many other areas. What is most noteworthy is his dedication to visiting

the sick. If you get sick or go to the hospital, you will have a visitor with an uplifting spirit. He was elected Deacon Emeritus in 1993.

Mr. J. W. Robertson joined the church in 1949 and served by teaching 13 year old boys in Sunday School, leading R.A.'s, and being on the R. A. Council. For a number of years, he served as Secretary and Treasurer of the Brotherhood, Superintendent of Adult Sunday School, and Chief Usher. He was elected Deacon Emeritus in 1993.

I would like at this time to recognize some of the Deacons that are not included in the above, simply because they passed on before they became old enough. They are James Cooper, Thad Lowder, Garland Williamson, Marvin Williams, Ervin Workma, J. D. Arey, Curtis Lawhon, W. S. Taylor, Harold Vest, Jack Flinchum. All of these men at the time of their service had very individual personalities and were very different one from the other, but they all had one thing in common, they loved our Lord and this Church. They were here to serve, and being led by the Holy Spirit, they did this very well.

Motion: I move that we accept the resolution as presented by the Deacon Board to elect George D. Anderson as Deacon Emeritus and elect Coy L. Richards as Deacon Emeritus..



Memories

by Minnie Rosy

My daddy and mother, J.S. and Mary C. Cozart, moved to this area when I was 9 years old. We started going to the Baptist Church immediately. They joined the Church on January 11, 1920.

My first Sunday School teacher was Mrs. Yates. She lived in a large house across the street from the Bryant Inn. Mrs. Yates was a very kind lady; she was a good and thorough teacher.

Later Mrs. Minnie Farrell became my Sunday School Teacher. She lived in and owned the Lloyd Hall. She was a good teacher and liked for us to have a good time. I remember one special occasion. Mrs. Farrell planned a picnic and train ride for us. The name of the train was the "Shoefly." It made the round trip from Hamlet to Raleigh once a day. Mrs. Farrell took us to Pinebluff to catch the "Shoefly" at 10:00 A.M. for an exciting ride to Lakeview. We all had a good time swimming, playing games, and picnicking. After a great day we returned about 6:00 P.M. on the "Shoefly." Cecil Farrell, her son, met us and took us all home.

I joined the church on July 3, 1921, while Mrs. Farrell was my teacher. Also joining at that time were Richard and Wilson Tarlton. Rev. Keller was Pastor at that time. I was baptized August 1, 1921, in the Aberdeen Lake.

Mr. and Mrs. Ben Wilson were hard workers for the church. Mrs. Wilson worked real hard to get pews for the church. She planned yard sales over a period of years to raise money for this project. Mrs. Wilson had Brunswick Stews on Friday and Saturday. Several people donated ingredients for the stew and sold plates to workers as they came in from work. She was determined to have pews for the church.

Memories

by Thelma Hartshorne

I joined the church when I was 13 when Rev. Willis was pastor. I was baptized in the Aberdeen Lake.

I was pianist and organist and worked with Mrs. Yates in the Primary Class and played the piano for the children in the classroom. When classes were over we would meet together to finish Sunday School and then go back that night for service.

At the revivals I would play for all services. If Ruth was at home she would fill in for me during the summer. When I was a little girl I can remember they stood me in a chair to sing "Jesus Loves Me."

I was married on January 10, 1953, in the old church. Rev. Caudle performed the ceremony and my sister, Ruth, played the Wedding March.

I can remember how the women worked together to make money to build the new church by serving dinners for the Men's Meetings. We did not have a kitchen so all the food had to be brought from home.

We could hear the Church Bell ring before all the meetings to remind us to come.

Memories

by Ruth McFarland

I joined the church when I was 10 years old and was baptized in the Aberdeen Lake. After I joined the church I was into all the activities for the children and young people. I was in the choir for children, then later adults. I was asked to sing solos very early, even from the primary grades. My mother asked me to sing one time for the WMU which met in the afternoon. It had to be before I started school or soon after. She said she would buy me a doll if I would do it. Evidently, I didn't want to get up before a crowd. My mother was a firm believer in attending every service at the church. Revivals in those days went all week through Friday night and seems like they were twice a day, at eleven in the morning and again at night.

My two sisters, Thelma and Augusta, and I were the main ones to depend on to keep the music going in the early days. I remember some very faithful and helpful members like Mr. Norris. He had a very good voice. Since I could read the music I could sing either alto or soprano. Augusta had a lovely soprano voice, and she and I would sing duets while Thelma played the piano.

My memory is not clear about some of the early pastors, but I remember Dr. Jackson from Pinebluff, Mr. Blalock, Mr. Caudle. One thing stands out about Mr. Caudle. At my mother's funeral, he said "Thy faithful servant, you have been faithful over a few things I will make you ruler over many."

My father and mother attended church when it was first organized and helped to raise money to build a new church.

Memories

by Betty Wimberly

One of the charter members of Aberdeen Baptist Church, Dora Knight, was my grandmother. She was married in the church when Rev. J.B. Willis was pastor. She was a milliner and used to travel to New York by Seaboard Railroad to buy supplies.

Memories

by Irene Olive Kittinger

My parents, Walter and Mae Olive, were married in 1922, and soon after they came to Moore County to start a dairy business on a farm east of Southern Pines. Knowing the J. A. Bryants because of a family tie with Mrs. Bryant, they decided to unite with the church in Aberdeen which was not "northern" as was Southern Pines. In a few years I came along and four years later, Jean. As we grew, the business grew. A full line of products and then a dairy store (with ice cream and Mother's baked goods), becoming a restaurant during WWII, kept our parents busy every hour of every day. They saw to it, however, that their girls were in church whenever possible-usually a farm hand drove us down. Many a Sunday when services were over and everybody else was gone, Jean and I had to wait around the front steps for our ride, or in bad weather the Bryants would take us to their home.

Revival times were special, the four of us usually there-Dad in the choir and we girls sitting by Mother. Her arms were so nice to lean on when we would get sleepy as the preaching went on and on. We always looked forward to Christmas at the church. The pagents, the carols, the poems by the children, the beautiful tree, and Santa's visit remain cherished memories. Also special through the years were the pastors' visits and the times their families were invited to eat with us or would come to enjoy the farm.

Sunday morning, though, was the highlight of the week. As soon as the opening program of Sunday School was over, I would march past the right of the pulpit and down several steps to my classroom. To the left of the doors was a long, rather dark stairway, there I would look up, wondering about God somewhere up there in His House and if one day I might see Him. I would go into Mrs. Agnes Yates' Beginner room with its long table and chairs of blue. A double-size partition on the right opened to the Primary class. At some point all the children gathered in there around the piano to sing, usually led by Mrs. Yates. She had such a kind face and snow white hair with a soft twist on top held by large gray pins. On the wall by the door in her room, the last thing we saw when leaving, was the well-known picture of Jesus with the children. I remember sitting and looking up at the picture, hearing the words from Mrs. Yates that God is love, Jesus loves us, and we are to love one another. Etched also in memory is the time each child was given a nut shell and moss to make a boat for Baby Moses. I think our teacher, Mrs. Yates, was ahead of her day in her teaching methods.

As a Primary, I often sat with the Lineberry family at church service. One Sunday, at the invitation of Rev. Ives, their daughter went down the aisle to accept Jesus. I followed! My parents were somewhat perturbed, thinking at age seven I was too young. Dad talked with me about the seriousness of this step. "But I love Jesus!" was my response. So I was baptized there in the baptistry to the left of the pulpit, under the pull-up floor of the choir section. After a few years, I finally got to go up that stairway to the Junior girls. I was given my first Bible by my teacher, Mrs. Bryant. Then followed Mrs. E. M. Harris, wife of the pastor, and Ruth MacFarland as I moved on into the Intermediate class. Later on, I was pianist for some of the services. Mr. Jack Taylor said if I wanted to take piano at Meredith, the extra cost would be provided. Reading the requirements for that course, I declined.

One day, while I was a student at Meredith, a Raleigh store called and told me that Aberdeen First Baptist Church had made arrangements for me to come and select a comfortable chair for my dormitory room (chosen was a beautiful floral pattern on dusty pink chinz).

Such are the memories of how a great church provides a strong foundation for one's spiritual growth. After college, I pursued a degree in Religious Education at Louisville and then served in seven churches over two decades and in three states, meeting my husband in Virginia.

To the very end, our parents loved, supported, and prayed for this church, and the thoughts and prayers of their daughters remain with Aberdeen Baptists.....*the church, the steeple, the people!*

Memories

by Faye Honeycutt

Many memories come to mind as I think of my early years in Aberdeen First Baptist Church.

I remember the kindness of one of my Sunday School teachers, Mrs Irene Norris. I remember being in GAs and going to camps at Fruitland and Caswell. I remember being in YWAs and helping needy families at Christmas.

Christmas at the church was so special! I remember the Nativity Pageants, flannel bathrobes, walking canes, angels with silver tinsel in their hair, wise men with their gifts. I remember the Christmas poems memorized and soon forgotten by small children. I remember Santa Claus with gift bags of fruit and candy.

As I grew up in the church, it was a sure thing our family would be at church every Sunday, morning and evening. Some memories of these services bring a smile to my face. I remember watching the feathers on Mrs. Seymour's hat and smelling the stagnant cigar that Dr. Bowen left on the front door step each Sunday morning. I remember the joy of knowing all the church members and their families.

Even as a young person the choir was such an important part of my life. I remember Mrs. Hattie Byrd Smith, our pianist. I remember how I enjoyed singing with other choir members such as Mrs. A.F. Dees, Mrs. Elsie Lawrence, Mrs. Ulma Taylor, Mr. Bill Benson, Mr. Norris, Mr. Olive, the Caudle family. I remember Mr. Whitesides singing "Jerusalem, Jerusalem" on Palm Sunday.

I give thanks for these cherished memories as I continue to rejoice in Aberdeen First Baptist Church.



Faye Honeycutt, Ray Bosworth, Juanita Lomax at the Centennial Celebration

Memories by Vivian Green

In the old church on East Main Street there was a two story addition. Later when more space was needed, barracks were erected on the church lot. The Junior Department, "war babies," was by far the largest department in Sunday School and used the largest room on the second floor as its assembly room. After assembly, the classes broke away and went to various areas for teaching the lessons. One of these areas was the kitchen which was located in the barracks. Cornie Green tells of teaching a class of Junior boys there, and the only heat available was to open the oven door and turn on the stove. It apparently worked pretty efficiently except perhaps when the power bill came in each month.

In the summer of 1948, Robbins Mills completed the giant plant located on Highway #5, one mile west of Aberdeen. Many families moved into this area to work in the new plant and were absorbed into the town and community. A large number joined Aberdeen First Baptist and became active members and took leading roles in the church work. In 1952, I believe, the same company, Robbins Mills, constructed an even larger plant in Raeford. As in Aberdeen, four years earlier, this attracted families from various other areas to the Hoke County location to supply man-power for the operation. During Sunday Morning Worship Service one Sunday, Rev. Deese commented that he had learned from the Baptist Preacher in Raeford that his church was having difficulty in accepting the "Mill" people. Rev. Deese congratulated the Aberdeen First Baptist people on how well they accepted and welcomed the "Mill" people here. At this point, E. T. Davidson, Superintendent of Maintenance in the plant here, interrupted the pastor and said, "I guess they did accept us. Before we came, one could make a 'U' turn on Main Street at five o'clock on Saturday afternoon and not interrupt a thing."

Robbins Mills, now J.P.S. Carpets, located on Highway #5, was completed in the summer of 1948. One hundred new houses were built in the area known as Colonial Heights to help house some of the influx of employees and their families who came here to help operate the new giant plant. Needless to say, the employing of some 550 people was a real boost to the Aberdeen and surrounding economies. The plant employed experienced people from many areas who moved here and blended into the church and other community activities. Aberdeen First Baptist became the church home for many of the new Aberdeen residents. Many accepted leading rolls in our church. All went well at the plant until early 1956 when the demand for the product produced there slowed and operations were curtailed somewhat, but the slowdown was thought to be temporary and wasn't taken too seriously. At this time we were in the final stages of completion of the

new church building and had borrowed \$90,000 to complete the building, and many had signed notes to guarantee the loan. Some of these signees were plant employees. On Monday after our first meeting in the new church in September, a major bomb shell was dropped when the plant announced its closing and over 500 people would need to seek employment elsewhere. This was a real shock for all concerned and especially Aberdeen First Baptist who had just obligated herself to make large payments for 10 years. But, as most stories have a happy ending, especially when people trust their Lord, the church members buckled down and worked together. With the leadership of many good people, many who have since gone on to their rewards, not a single payment was late and the people of the church reached new heights, which could not have even been anticipated on that black Monday in September.

Rev. F.E. Deese served as pastor in the Mid-Fifties. He was a very cordial, friendly, and likable person and was particularly adept at attracting young couples as members. He loved to visit in the homes of his members and was the kind of person who could just “drop in” and not cause any embarrassment or anxiety. His favorite dessert was “homemade ice cream.” Looking back, it seems that Cornie and I and Celeste were in the home of one of the young couples, along with Rev. Deese and his family, and another couple or two, virtually every Sunday evening in the summer months for ice cream. We, of course, took our turn. We usually made the ice cream on Sunday afternoon, packed it in ice or put it in the freezer, and kept it until after church service. Rev. Deese was particularly fond of home made ice cream. He would eat “bought” only as a last resort. I recall one particular Sunday evening I asked Bro. Deese to come home with us after church for ice cream. He asked if we had “home made.” For some reason, I had not taken time to make any that particular Sunday afternoon, and I said, “No, but I have plenty of bought.” He replied, “Let me check with the others and if no one has any ‘home made,’ I’ll come to your house.” This was a wonderful time in my church life. Perhaps because we were young and full of energy, but thinking back, everyone seemed to be pretty satisfied. This was before the “Crazy Sixties” when almost everything went awry and everyone seemed to become angry, and to some extent, this attitude continues today. I thank God each day for having lived through this time, just after World War II through the Fifties and Sixties.

Memories

by Cladie Heisel

The First Baptist Church of Aberdeen meant a great deal to me as a young girl growing up in Aberdeen. I will never forget my Sunday School teacher Mrs. Farrell Brown, and the

guidance and leadership of Barbara Arey in YWA's will always hold a special place in my heart.

When the church initiated a building fund, I wanted to be a little part of that vision, so I worked in tobacco in the summers in order to give some money to the building fund. This lovely church building is a dream come true for me.

Memories

by Mary McCluskey

It was 1962. We had moved to Aberdeen the year before and had immediately joined the First Baptist Church. We had three pre-school age children and only one car. One Sunday Don was out of town and, of course, so was the car. I had no way to get to church that Sunday morning, so Martha and Sid Taylor offered to pick us up and take us to church. They were so gracious, kind, and loving to me and three lively, wiggly little children that I will never forget it. In fact, this small act of kindness remains one of my cherished memories of this church.

Memories

by Helen Selby

James W. Selby became a part of Aberdeen First Baptist Church February 20, 1986. He helped finish the Fellowship Hall and some classrooms. He loved to work on repairs at the church and later he became the Chairman of the Building and Grounds Committee. He served as Chairman of this committee for five years until his death January 19, 1991. He was also a member of the Good News Sunday School Class and the Kitchen Committee.

Shortly before his death, he began working on plans for remodeling the kitchen. He visited other churches and brought some of their features to be added to our new kitchen. He was never able to complete this task. When he became ill, he passed his ideas on for someone else to complete. Bernie Ochran and David Garner took the challenge and with the help of others demolished the old kitchen and enlarged and rebuilt the new kitchen. He would be so proud of the completed job.

Memories

by Joe and Nancy Singleton

Our lives were enriched by our membership in First Baptist Church of Aberdeen for twenty-one years (approximately one-third of our lives thus far). Reflections of those years bring to mind a church of caring, loving people. We were there during the pastorates of

Denny Spear, Gwenn McCormick, Charles Hinson and also the interim pastorate of Carlisle Franks. Through my (Nancy's) service on the staff of the church for seven and one-half years and being involved in so many areas of the church, I can remember many instances where the people of First Baptist rose to meet the needs of people, and to us that is what service is all about--doing for others in Jesus' name.

The teachings, the examples, and the fellowship of the people in the church helped us to grow as Christians, and we will always be grateful for this.

Significant events that I (Joe) often reflect upon are the Deacons' Retreats. These were times when we shared our personal Christian experiences, became closer as a group of concerned Christians, and planned for the activities of the church.

Both our children, Hollie and Cindy, were baptized and married in Aberdeen First Baptist; therefore, many of the people of that church shared with us some of the most significant moments of our lives.

Oh! How we cherish the memories of the outdoor Christmas Drama, "The Story Retold." There were so many people involved, and we've never seen a more enthusiastic group of young people who were willing to work so hard to share with others the story of Jesus' birth. All of these young people are now adults, and we joy to see that many of them are leaders in the church doing what we were doing--sharing the good news and teaching youth that the Christian life is the only way to go. Our involvement in this happening proved to us that a church can work together in one accord to accomplish what God wants a church to do.

The first World Hunger Emphasis brought home to us in an indelible manner that many of the people of the world are not as fortunate as we are, and God expects us to share with those in need. This emphasis again proved that the people of Aberdeen First Baptist are a loving and caring people. If we remember correctly, we went beyond the goal with very little effort, and we are pleased to know that this is still an annual emphasis.

As Paul wrote to the church at Philippi in Philippians 1:3 (NRSV), "I thank my God every time I remember you . . ."

We wish for the church at Aberdeen grace and peace. We love you.

Memories

by Herman W. Russell

My earliest memories of First Baptist Church, Aberdeen, are as an infant or toddler. I remember attending with my parents when the church still met in the white building on Main Street. There are memories of attending Sunday School in the building behind the sanctuary.

First Baptist Church and her Ministries have played a significant part in my own Christian pilgrimage. As a Royal Ambassador, after moving to the present building on Highway #1, I made a profession of faith in Jesus Christ as my personal Lord and Savior. This was in May of 1956 and I was baptized a few weeks later. Around the age of 16, I committed my life to full-time Christian service and was licensed to preach by the church in 1963. In 1971 First Baptist Church ordained me to the Gospel Ministry.

This church has been there as a supporter, through prayer and finances, of my education and ministry as I have served along with my family here in the United States and overseas in Africa.

I wish to express my congratulations to the First Baptist Church in the celebration of her first 100 years of ministry in Aberdeen, and I give thanks for the significant part her members have played in my life.

Memories

by Christy Lee

The Aberdeen First Baptist Youth Department traveled to Buffalo, New York, July 8-17, 1994. We visited Niagara Falls, Henry Ford Museum in Detroit, and passed through many major cities such as Pittsburgh, Buffalo, Toronto, Windsor, Detroit, and Cincinnati. Not only did we experience a blessing from our mission work, but we also saw many beautiful places in America that some of us may never see again.

Not only did we see a lot of God's beautiful creation, but we also tried to spread God's Word to others. We taught a Vacation Bible School to a church in the outskirts of Buffalo. This was a very successful week. We all received a real blessing. At the end of the week. I asked the children what they had learned that week, and one little boy said that he had learned that the Bible wasn't all that bad. That little quote made us all realize that our whole trip was worthwhile.

During the week we all grew spiritually. We all built our relationship with God. God gave us strength to make it through the week without falling out from lack of sleep and tiredness.

We will never know how many lives we touched with God's Love, but He knows. We helped God reserve places in Heaven for the people up in Buffalo, New York, who may have never had a place before.

God bless the Congregation of Aberdeen First Baptist Church for supporting the Youth of the Church, and God bless our Youth Group. May we always spread God's love to those who don't know Him.



Mission Team that traveled to Buffalo, N.Y. July 1994

MINISTERS

Livingston Johnson	1894 - 1895
C.J.F. Anderson	Jan. - Sept. 1895
A.C. Cree	1895 - 1898
W.L. Wright	1898 - 1899
O.T. Edwards	1899 - 1900
Charles G. Thomas	1901 - 1902
J.B. Richardson	1903 - 1906
J.M. Haymore	Sept. - Dec. 1906
E.D. Poe	1907 - 1910
C.C. Wheeler	1910 - 1911
J.B. Willis	1911 - 1913
O.P. Campbell	Jan. - May 1914
W.E. Goode	1914 - 1915
W.T. Baucome	1916 - 1918
O.A. Keller	1918 - 1923
Jesse Blalock	1923 - 1927
C.L. Jackson	1927 - 1932
D.H. Ives	1932 - 1934
E.M. Harris	1935 - 1946
Zeb A. Caudle	1947 - 1953
F.E. Deese	1954 - 1957
R.D. Spear	1958 - 1963
Gwenn McCormick	1963 - 1970
Charles S. Hinson	1971 -

CHURCH TREASURERS

J.W. Fagan.....	1894-1898
J.T. Ellis	1898-1902
J.A. Randall	1902-1926
A.F. Yates	1926-1933
O.L. Seymour	1933-1949
F.H. Brown	1949-1953
George D. Anderson	1953-1960
H.N. Russell	1960-1961
W.W. Olive.....	1961-1962
H.N. Russell	1962-1991
R.E. Morrison.....	1991-

CHURCH CLERKS

J.W. Fagan.....	1894-1898
L.E. Thomas	1898-1900
A.F. Yates	1900-1908
W.E. Poe	1908-1911
A.F. Yates	1911-1914
W.J. Welch	1914-1915
A.F. Yates	1915-1922
V.F. Tarlton.....	1922-1926
W.H. Averitte	1926-1927
W.W. Norris	1927-1935
W.T. Huntley.....	1935-1936
W.W. Norris	1936-1952
H.N. Russell	1952-1959
W.W. Olive.....	1959-1973
Juanita Lomax	1973-1983
Alease Fowler	1983-1989
Juanita Lomax	1989-

SUNDAY SCHOOL SUPERINTENDENTS

T.S. Carroll	1896-1907
J.A. Bryant	1907-1914
A.L. Vann	1914-1915
J.A. Bryant	1915-1923
J.F. Deaton	1923-1926
J.A. Bryant	1926-1946
W.W. Norris	1946-1948
J.M. Taylor	1948-1953
J.D. Arey, Jr.	1953-1957
Robert Veasey	1957-1960
Vivian Green	1960-1962
Don McCluskey	1962-1963
James Cooper	1963-1964
James Odum	1964-1973
Van Barbee	1973-1974
Charles Caddell	1974-1980
James Odum	1980-1982
Charles Caddell	1982-1988
Sherrill Lee	1988-1989
Charles Caddell	1989-1991
Don McCluskey	1991-1992
Ted Godwin	1992-1993
Tony Mayfield	1993-

WMU Directors

Mrs. A.F. Yates	1913-1914
Mrs. R.H. Thompson	1914-1922
Mrs. Claude Johnson	1922-1926
Mrs. R.G. Farrell	1926-1927
Mrs. S.W. Kent	1927-1930
Mrs. Clara B. Lewis	1930-1936
Mrs. J.M. Taylor	1936-1939
Mrs. E.M. Harris	1939-1940
Mrs. O.L. Seymour	1940-1942
Mrs. J. M. Taylor	1942-1943
Mrs. W.L. McGill	1943-1945
Mrs. W.E. Freeman	1945-1946
Mrs. O. L. Seymour	1946-1950
Mrs. James Veasey	1950-1951
Mrs. F.H. Brown	1951-1952
Mrs. E.C. Workman	1952-1954
Mrs. W.W. Olive	1954-1956
Mrs. J.M. Taylor	1956-1958
Mrs. A.L. McCaskill	1958-1959
Mrs. E.C. Workman	1959-1960
Mrs. James H. Bishop	1960-1961
Mrs. E.H. Poole	1961-1964
Mrs. George Brigman	1964-1966
Mrs. Garland Williamson	1966-1969
Mrs. Cladie Heisel	1969-1971
Mrs. Garland Williamson	1971-1972
Mrs. Carlisle Franks	1972-1976
Mrs. Garland Williamson	1976-1977
Mrs. Roy Fowler	1977-1981
Mrs. George Brigman	1981-1983
Mrs. Harry Lancaster	1983-1987
Mrs. Al Wilson	1987-1989
Mrs. Charles Hinson	1989-1990
Mrs. Don McCluskey	1990-1992
Mrs. Parks Allred	1992-1994

DEACONS EMERITI

Mr. J.A. Bryant	1946
Mr. W.E. Freeman	1946
Mr. W.W. Norris	1964
Dr. E.M. Medlin	1971
Mr. W.W. Olive	1972
Mr. W.D. White	1974
Mr. Wilbur Tinder	1988
Mr. Jack M. Taylor, Sr.	1988
Mr. Harry Veasey	1993
Mr. Jack Robertson	1993
Mr. George D. Anderson	1994
Mr. Coy L. Richards	1994

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